



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Utah Resource Advisory Council

Nov. 13, 2024
Meeting Minutes
Prehistoric Museum
Price, UT

Council Members Present:

- Tyler Thompson (Chair), Clif Koontz (Vice Chair), Sim Weston, Joan Hayes, Pat Hearty, Brandon Yardley, Neal Clark, Bill Cox (virtual), Rick Draney (virtual), Karen Goodfellow (virtual), Mary Lane Poe (virtual), Matt Preston (BLM DFO)

Public Present:

- Jesse Sanchez, Scott Wheeler, Edward Geary

INTRODUCTIONS:

Designated Federal Officer, Matt Preston

Council Chair, Tyler Thompson

Topic 1: BLM Utah projects overview

Presenter: Matt Preston, Acting State Director

- Awaiting transition team from Trump administration. Working to complete Biden administration priorities, pivot to new administration priorities.
- Southeast Utah amendments for Gunnison sage grouse habitat that matches greater sage grouse national planning. Currently undergoing 3rd greater sage grouse planning effort. Sim Weston optimistic birds are rebounding in NE Utah, wonders why they're allowed to be hunted. BLM responds hunting is allowed where populations can handle thinning. Rich/Box Elder counties are where stronger populations are located.
- Northern Corridor final SEIS issued last week. Red Hills Pkwy selected as preferred alternative. Final ROD scheduled for mid-December. Selected on basis of avoiding disturbance of Red Cliffs NCA, builds on existing infrastructure. This alternative reduced modeled traffic congestion the most. Karen Goodfellow: 90% more to do for planning if City of St. George requests ROW. Increased fire danger is related to the road (other options.) Impact to neighborhoods. Mary Lane Poe: we're going to have to deal with traffic as a result of growth. Goal is to mitigate detriment to existing resources.
- Dingell Land Exchange Notice of Decision coming soon. 110,000 acres will become BLM, approx. 90,000 acres becomes Utah Trust Lands. 45-day protest period follows.

- Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears National Monuments. Questions on if ping-pong land management will continue. Proposed plan for BENM out in Oct. 2024, subject to protest period and Governor's consistency review. BLM will respond to Gov. consistency review; Gov. will have opportunity to appeal. Letter from Gov. Cox expected soon. Expected completion of RMP in January 2025. Final plan is likely to change in response to protests and Gov. consistency review.
- Travel Management Plans. Planning guided by settlement agreement. Three decisions have been issued, 8 more to go.
 - Field trip on Nov. 14 will visit routes in San Rafael Swell TMA. 6,000 comments received for that TMP. Will be controversial, will not please either side. Clif Koontz: why has the deadline been missed on the settlement and the Dingell Act? BLM responds both are priorities and diligently being worked on.
 - Henry Mountains TMP team working through 600 route-specific comments. It's a high priority with San Rafael Swell TMP. Koontz: plan lacks a complete inventory.
- Wild horses controversy. Muddy Creek lack of access to water. Water is readily available, and horses are able to access. West Desert District Onaqui HMA – horse was illegally shot and killed. Reward in process of being established to hold perpetrator accountable.
- Readout of RAC/MAC vacancies. Multiple positions coming vacant in 2025 for Utah RAC, Bears Ears MAC, and Grand Staircase-Escalante MAC. Call for nominations currently out, will review and submit recommendations to replace seats.

Topic 2: Green River District Overview

Presenters: Kyle Beagley, Assistant Field Manager, Price Field Office; Elijah Waters, GRD Manager

- Price Field Office (PFO) has 2.5 million acres, 178 grazing allotments, 4 coal mines producing 10 metric tons.
- 4 plan amendments in progress.
 - San Rafael Swell Recreation Area – 217,000 acres. Minerals withdrawn.
 - 17 wilderness areas, 650,000 acres, all will need management plans.
 - 5 land conveyances, including Dingell Act (206 parcels, 115,000 acres).
 - San Rafael Swell TMP.
 - The Wedge – future management considerations, fee area.
 - Buckhorn Canyon – wilderness boundary/TMP conflict.
 - Alternative A – 1,430 designated routes.
- Personnel – permanent PFO manager by end of the week. Pending vacancy for Vernal Field Office manager pending field manager retirement.
- GRD minerals program generates \$156 million. GRD staff costs for 190 personnel = \$15 million, which is a 10/1 return on investment.
- GRD coal powers 1/3 of total power generated in Utah.
- Transmission lines:
 - Moon Lake – 38-mile line
 - Gateway South – 416-mile line, close to completion
 - TransWest Express – 732-mile line, NTP coming, will start next year.
- Public lands grazing is crucial to sage grouse habitat preservation.
- Dinosaur North TMP has potential for RAC input as agenda item at next meeting.
- Pariette Wetlands has prescribed burns every year.
- Desert Rivers Fire Unit responded to 103 fires this year. Most occur in Canyon Country District.

- Via Ferata climbing wall is in Vernal watershed. It was issued as a patent to Vernal and has a reversionary clause that may be an issue.
- Rick Draney: What are the recreational opportunities, possibilities, and priorities? Dingell Act designations and San Rafael Swell Rec Area is #1 priority. Vernal and Price FOs will have their own priorities. San Rafael Swell plan amendment is priority for Price FO.

Topic 3: Special Recreation Permit (SRP) Application Fee Proposal

Presenter: Evan Glenn, BLM Utah

- Goal = make applications more professional from applicants, increase follow through.
- Applications include guides, outfitters, events, commercial sales, competitive events, organized groups (weddings, fraternity activities), individual SRPs (e.g. Desolation Canyon).
- Yardley: Is permitting policed? Yes, BLM attempts to pull violations into the permitting system and address persistent violators.
- Hayes: Shared personal experience of group reported due to exchange of funds, but no one was paid. Demonstrates flexibility at Field Office level. People need to understand rules. Meet up groups are a trend. Utah is at the recreation forefront for SRPs (1,400 active permits in 2023). SRPs follow stipulations that are set up by BLM to manage safety, resource protection, waste management, parking, etc. SRPs brought in \$3 million in UT and funds stay in the office where generated.
- Clark: Do permit costs exceed management costs? In most cases, BLM costs exceed permit income. Some may be revenue generators. Some personnel are 100% funded by permit fees. Some are funded with a mix of permit fees and BLM funding from other sources. Today, BLM is seeking input on the proposal to guide the decision-making process. A decision will be posted in the *Federal Register* for public comment at some point.
- Rates: Commercial is 3% of gross sales; organized events are \$7 per person with a \$130 per event minimum; exclusive use events are \$260 per site.
- Utah has no SRP application fee; Colorado is the only state with one.
- Koontz: Moab FO has an application fee that is applicable to the permit fee. BLM proposal is an effort to bring consistency and spend staff time on serious applicants.
- Prior proposal was brought forward in 2014 and approved by RAC, but no follow-through to completion. The solicitor stated this is not a RAC fee and should be input from the RAC rather than a formal recommendation. Prior fee was \$200.
- Need = well-constructed applications from serious users. BLM will work with individuals with unsatisfactory applications. Hard for BLM, because some SRPs require NEPA, and then there is no follow through from applicant. Costs of many permits range \$700-900. Cost recovery is different from fees and is applied separately. Fee would not be charged when cost recovery applies. Goal is not to put the squeeze on the little guy.
- Proposal = fee 150% of minimum use permit that is set by BLM director (\$195 currently). Fee may be waived in extraordinary circumstances by authorizing officer for organized groups (e.g., scouts). Applications are good for 5 or 10 years. Most are 10 years. Nonprofit does not mean non-commercial.
- Draney: What does CO charge, and what other states are looking at charging? CO charges \$100 (in place since 2007, considering increase to \$200.) BLM Utah's focus is on finding the sweet spot where applicant is likely to take it seriously. A national norm for the fee may emerge. Draney: fee would be consistent throughout Utah? Yes, with exception of organized groups where the effort to manage the event is insignificant. Draney: will exception availability be explained on application? This occurs through informal conversation prior to application submission.

- Koontz: making the fee non-refundable may eliminate unserious applicants. Scaling of fees through a tiered fee structure.
- Clark: what is the mechanism for implementation? No NEPA/CFR allows fee. Fee will be finalized and published in *Federal Register* though not required.
- Yardley: be ready for concerns from the public on “why now?” or treatment of different groups that may receive an exception by the AO.
- RAC agrees to further consider options for SRPs, including exceptions and how to determine, and will bring further discussion/input to the next RAC meeting.

Public Comment Period

- Scott Wheeler: concerned about fees. Would like clarity on when an SRP is needed. More discussion needed on exceptions and having guidelines for the AO. Has concerns about San Rafael Swell TMP routes intended for closure. Concerned that it was broken into two pieces and feels like it should be one piece. Concerned that breaking it into two pieces will make management difficult. Concerned about access, that routes that are closed are the good roads to neat, pristine places, not the garbage trails. Wants it to be managed well.
- Jesse Sanchez: very concerned about the aggressive nature of BLM closing public lands access that he enjoys. Feels trails need to be opened instead of closing due to growing population. Concerned that closing trails will lead to congestion. Asks why RAC meeting isn't hosted on a Friday or evenings when public are available.

Topic 5: Utah Recreation Summit summary

Presenter: Kevin Oliver, BLM Division Chief, Division of Recreation and Visitor Services

- Blueprint for 21st Century Outdoor Recreation – nationwide plan
- Four strategic pillars: value of partnerships, public input, expanding outreach, culture of inclusion.
- BLM recognizes support is earned. Line officers aware of challenges.
- Completed internal assessments and the summit, now working on action plans.
- Summit meeting was Aug. 29, 2024. There were 48 partners in attendance. Good representation of county tourism partners.
- Provided input on what assessment was missing and specific potential actions.
- Challenges: BLM facilities & staffing, addressing dispersed camping, human waste, increased visitation impacts on natural and cultural resources.
- Opportunities: responsible recreation, engage local counties/communities, focus on educational recreation.
- Missing: consistent implementation, better alignment of BLM/local community priorities, definition of sustainable recreation, volunteer and community engagement, technology and modernization.
- Hayes: how was summit advertised? It was invitation only. Invites sent to a list of partners. About 30% RSVP'd. There was not an online component.
- Goodfellow: Are there opportunities to provide recreation stewardship? Communication with youth and community to educate on responsible recreation. BLM has partnerships with groups like Youth Corps, SUWA, OHV groups, state agencies, etc.
- Clark: what is the timeline on the final action plan? Roughly 6-7 months after summits are complete nationwide. BLM UT is in brainstorming mode.

Topic 6: Renewable energy projects

- Presenter: Michelle Campeau, BLM Utah

- Renewable energy coordination offices (RECOs) in Washington, D.C., Arizona, California, Nevada and regional.
- Interagency MOU for best practices, avoiding process bottlenecks, etc.
- National renewable energy updates:
 - ROW regulations updated (43 CFR 2800)
 - Issued policy on implementation of new fee structure.
 - Updated Western Solar Plan, ROD due late December.
- Why developers are interested in BLM UT: 22.8 million acres available, excellent potential, support utility scale development (100+ mW), projects near existing infrastructure.
- Rocky Mountain Power connection fee is significant barrier to many projects.
- 18 UT renewable energy projects in process. Applications are demand driven.
- Yardley: what coordination occurs with counties? 43 CFR requires BLM to talk with other entities (including counties) prior to NEPA in an application review meeting. Counties may also participate during NEPA process. Where many projects cross jurisdictional lines, those jurisdictions may have permitting authority as well. BLM works to ensure counties are engaged in the process when projects involve only BLM lands. Currently no built solar on any BLM lands. Interconnection is a big issue impacting this. Some projects may be subject to Governor's consistency review.
- Poe: are there unique problems UT faces that NV, CA and other states are not? Lack of infrastructure is part of it.
- Geothermal energy potential: there's a lot in Utah. Three operating geothermal plants in Beaver County. One recently approved 2-gigawatt project. New technology drills wells into hot rock layer vs. current hot water layer.
- Hayes: where are they getting the water? It is a closed loop system with 10% continual use with heavy initial use of water.
- Wind energy: not as much in UT as other places. One project in Milford. Multiple testing and one development projects are in process.
- Solar energy: in 2012, created three solar energy zones. Cost to build a transmission line to a solar plant is \$1 million per mile.
- West-wide energy corridors (section 368 corridors) follow existing infrastructure.
- Draft renewable energy on BLM Public Lands in Utah – story map regarding approved projects is now public facing.
- Western Solar Plan timeline – notice of intent in 2022; 60-day scoping period; 60-day Governor's consistency review just completed. Expecting Notice of Availability in December. Covers more western states, counties. BLM could distribute funds as it sees fit, possibly to state/local government. Hayes: when will it be voted? That's unknown.
- Thompson: how much revenue is generated by renewable energy in Utah? It will vary. Some fees are based on flat rate per acre or variable rate per megawatt hour.
- Yardley: the 25% they're sending to us is scraps. BLM responds that once a solar project is authorized, it is no longer multiple use. Conversations during site selection are important to address that concern. Use decisions need to be made separately for each project.

Council Discussion:

- No action items.

- RAC requests Evan Glenn return to the next meeting to continue SRP fee discussion. BLM may want to conduct public comment period. Requests that information be sent to them in the interim period for a more informed discussion at the March meeting to make a recommendation/input.
- Potential future agenda items:
 - Changes for Trump Administration, including rules, mandates vacated.
 - Dinosaur North TMP
 - Dolores TMP
 - Recreation Improvement Grants
 - Recreation Blueprint
 - Westside Transmission planning.



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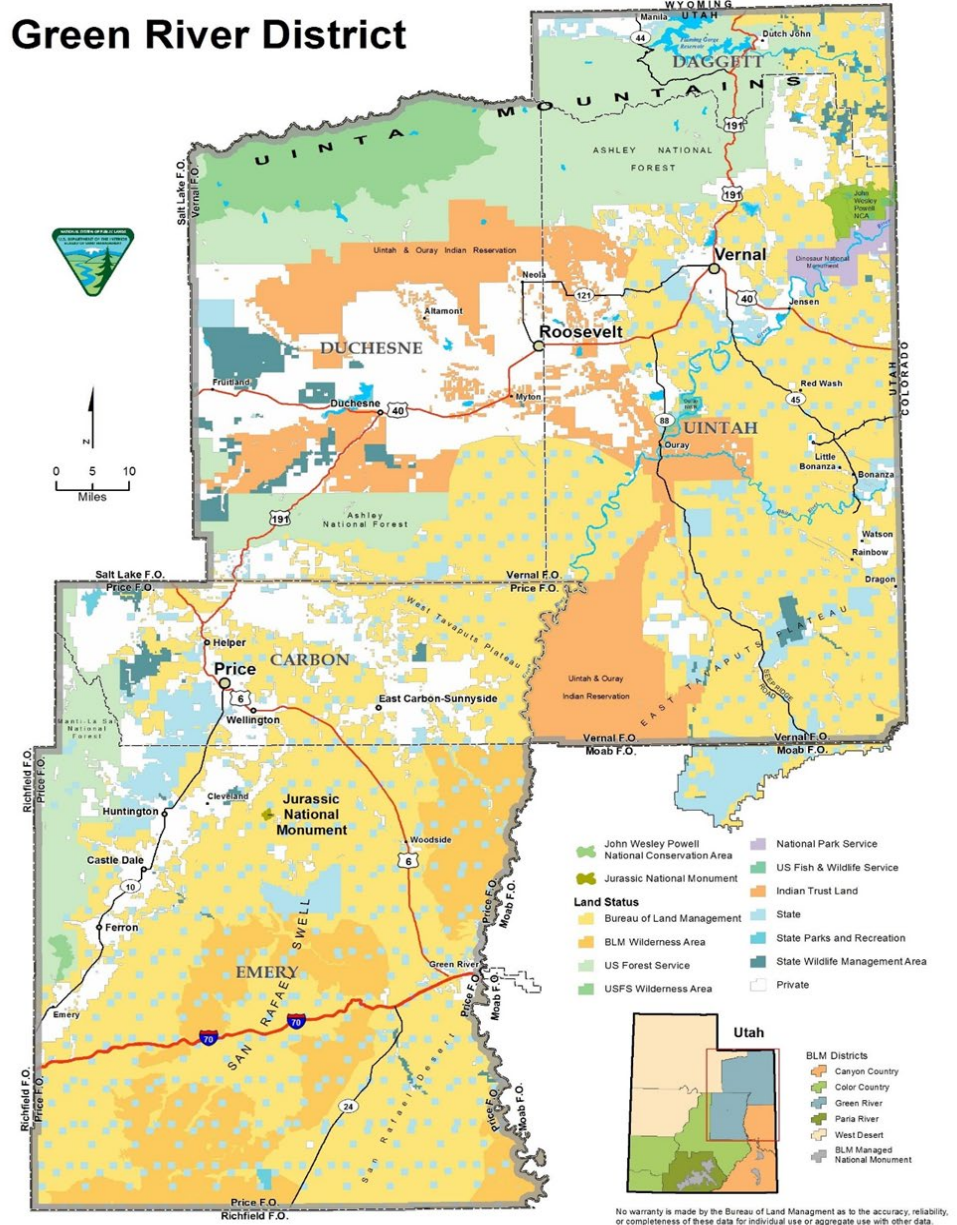
Green River District

Utah RAC Meeting – November 2024





Green River District



- Two field offices- Vernal & Price
- 4.2 million planning acres
- District boundary that spans 5 different counties (Daggett, Uintah, Duchesne, Carbon & Emery)
- Approximately 190 employees

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Across the GRD Landscape





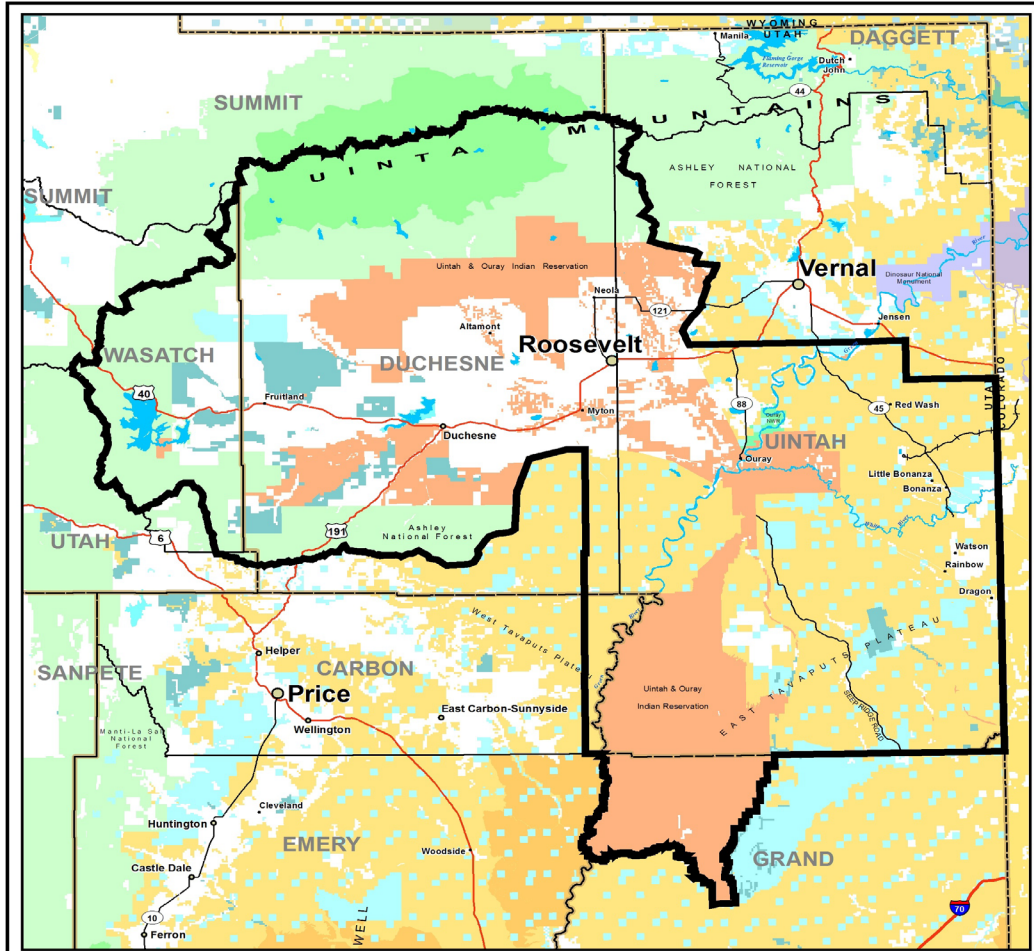
Green River District is unique, because it manages more Resources than the average BLM district

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Abandoned Mine Lands | 8. Rangeland Management (Livestock and Grazing) | 22. Special Designations: Wilderness Areas |
| 2. Air Quality / Greenhouse Gases | 9. Minerals: Leasable (oil & gas) | 23. Historic Trails |
| 3. BLM natural areas | 10. Minerals: Leasable (other) | 24. National Scenic Backways & Byways (Dinosaur Diamond Byway) |
| 4. Cultural Resources | 11. Minerals: Locatable | 25. National Landmarks |
| 5. Fire and Fuels Management | 12. Minerals: Saleable | 26. Jurassic National Monument and John Wesley Powell National Conservation Area |
| 6. Forage (both livestock and wildlife) | 13. Minerals: Material | 27. Congressionally Designated Recreation Area (McCoy Flats) |
| 7. Lands and Realty | 14. Paleontology | 28. Special Status Species |
| | 15. Recreation: Special Recreation Management Areas | 29. Travel and Transportation |
| | 16. Recreation: Trail Maintenance & Development | 30. Vegetation (including invasive & noxious weeds) |
| | 17. Riparian Resources | 31. Visual Resources |
| | 18. Soil and Water Resources | 32. Wild Horse and Burro |
| | 19. Special Designations: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) | 33. Wildlife and Fisheries |
| | 20. Special Designations: Wild & Scenic Rivers | 34. Woodland and Forest Products |
| | 21. Special Designations: Wilderness Study Areas | |



Minerals

- Coal
- Gas
- Gilsonite
- Helium
- Oil
- Oil Shale
- Phosphate
- Tar Sands
- Uranium
- & more

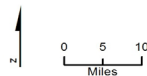


Indian Trust Responsibilities

Exterior Boundary



Uintah & Ouray Indian Reservation Boundary



- Uintah & Ouray Indian Reservation Boundary
- Indian Trust Land
- State Wildlife Management Area
- National Park Service
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Private
- US Forest Service
- BLM Wilderness Area
- State
- USFS Wilderness Area
- Bureau of Land Management
- State Parks and Recreation
- Bureau of Reclamation

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Revenue

- **FY2024, federal mineral revenues from Green River District = \$156,304,650 (84% of statewide revenue collected)**
- **The mineral lease types associated with revenues included: Coal, Gilsonite, Oil & Gas, Phosphate**
- **This does not include Indian trust minerals revenues collected**
- **Disbursement to the State of Utah for FY2024 was \$78,152,325**



Coal Gilsonite



COAL – Green River District

5 active mines service 3 power plants
which generate approximately 1/3 of total
power generated in Utah



ENERGY WORKLOAD – Green River District

The biggest workload is in oil and gas which includes oversight of the development of Indian trust assets in the Uintah & Ouray Reservation.

For FY2024 (October 1, 2023–September 30, 2024), the Vernal Field Office has:

- Received 340 Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs); 205 Federal and 135 Indian trust.
 - Processed 259 APDs; 163 Federal and 96 Indian trust.
 - Received and processed rights-of-way applications either associated with APDs or stand-alone proposals.
 - Processed 3,913 sundry notices.

FY2023- Witnessed the Plugging of 112 Federal and 58 Indian Trust Wells Total - 170

FY2024- Witnessed the Plugging of 89 Federal and 33 Indian Trust Wells Total – 122

FY2024- Processed 119 Final Abandonment Notices





BUILDING COALITIONS AND RECLAMATION

Plugging of Shut-In and Idle Wells

- For the past several years, BLM Vernal Field Office has been working with industry to provide their plans addressing shut-in and idle wells.
- Greatly appreciate being able to work with you, both as an operator and maybe also as a lessee when an operator defaults in their responsibility, in reducing the liability to the taxpayer of unusable wells.
- To date this fiscal year, we have witnessed the plugging of 122 wells associated with Federal and Indian trust leases.
- Require our Natural Resource Specialist to visit well site 30-days after well has been plugged to see if surface reclamation steps are in place, i.e. removal of well equipment, etc. If not, then require them to contact the operator to understand their plans.
- The BLM recommends if the surface is held in trust for the Tribe, that the Ute Tribe's Energy & Minerals Dept. is contacted early in the reclamation process to get their input into reclamation standards, including what needs to be reclaimed. For example, the Tribe may not desire to have the road reclaimed.
- BIA will also need to make a decision on the right-of-way associated with the plugged well.



Powerline Updates

- Moon Lake Powerline
- Gateway South
- TransWest Express



NLCS

- John Wesley Powell NCA (29,868 acres)
- Jurassic National Monument (850 acres)
- Old Spanish Trail National Historic Trail (68 miles)
- 17 Wilderness Areas (653,722 acres)
- 9 Wilderness Study Areas (141,816 acres)
- 3 Wild and Scenic River Segments



Grazing

Price

Allotments	181
Permittees	240

Permitted Animal Unit Months	99,520
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Vernal

Allotments	150
Permittees	118

Permitted Animal Unit Months	137,897
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Travel Management Planning

Price

San Rafael Swell
San Rafael Desert-
complete

Vernal

Book Cliffs
Dinosaur North



Future

West Emery
9-Mile Canyon
Chimney Rock
Carbon County



John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act

Green River District designations

- John Wesley Powell National Conservation Area
- 17 Wilderness Areas in Emery County
- San Rafael Swell Recreation Area
- Emery County Land Conveyances
- Ashley Springs Land Conveyance
- Green River Wild & Scenic River
- Jurassic National Monument
- BLM & SITLA Land Exchange
- McCoy Flats Trail System





John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act
Green River District designations
- continued -



John Wesley Powell National Conservation Area
30,000 acres

San Rafael Swell Recreation Area
217,000 acres





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Green River Wild & Scenic River

63 miles

John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act
Green River District designations
- continued -





John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act
Green River District designations
- continued -

McCoy Flats Trail System

first congressionally-designated mountain biking trails

Jurassic National Monument
includes Cleveland Lloyd Dinosaur
Quarry
850 acres





Pariette Wetlands





- **John Jarvie Historic Ranch**
- **McCoy Flats Bike Trail System**
- **Red Fleet Downhill Flow Trail**
- **Desolation Canyon**
- **San Rafael Swell Recreation Area**





Projects

- Desert Rivers Fire Unit
- San Rafael Swell TMP
- Dinosaur North TMP
- Via Ferrata





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Questions?





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BLM Utah Special Recreation Permit Application Fee Proposal November 2024

Summary

BLM Utah is proposing Special Recreation Permit (SRP) application fees to:

- Promote serious applications
- Promote follow through on applications
- Avoid processing applications that will not actually be used
- Offset the cost of processing SRPs



Special Recreation Permit Background

SRPs are issued to businesses, organizations, and individuals to allow the use of specific public land and related waters, often for financial gain.

- Commercial/Vendor
 - Guiding, on-site sales, events, etc.
- Competitive
 - Races, time trials, etc.
- Organized group use
 - Events that are not commercial or competitive such as weddings, fraternity activities, and gatherings reaching certain thresholds

SRPs allow the land stewards to coordinate and track commercial, competitive and organized use of public lands. They also provide resource protection measures to ensure the future enjoyment of those resources by the public.



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Special Recreation Permits are Important

SRP holders offer valuable services making experiences more widely available.

- Climbing guiding, river trips/gear, even giant rope swings.

SRP holders interface with the public directly. SRP stipulations require them to be good stewards of the land and to lead by example.

- Human waste management.
- Resource protection education.
- Responsible recreation.





BLM Utah Special Recreation Permit Program

BLM Utah administers more SRPs than any other state.

In FY23:

- In BLM Utah had nearly 1400 active SRPs
 - Colorado had 800
- The Moab Field Office had 565 active permits
 - Nearly 12 percent of all BLM SRPs!
- SPRs resulted in roughly \$3 million in revenue for the field offices administering the permits
 - Recreation fee program (campgrounds, SRPs, other permits, etc.) resulted in \$6.7 million in revenue.



Resource Advisory Council Input on Fee Proposal

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act requires official recommendation from the for new fees and changes to fees.

- Business plan recommendations the RAC is familiar with.

SRP fees, while authorized by FLREA, are set by the BLM Director or BLM State Directors (43 CFR 2932.31).

- The BLM Director sets SRP national fees every three years.
- BLM State Directors can set other SRP fees as needed.

RAC input can help shape our final proposal, however an official RAC recommendation will be not be required.

Finalized application fee will be published in the Federal Register





Current SRP Fees

Commercial use:

- 3% of gross or \$130 minimum annually

Competitive and organized use events:

- \$7 per person per day or \$130 per event, whichever is greater

Assigned site and exclusive use:

- \$260 per site

No current application fee in BLM Utah



SRP application Fee Background

BLM Colorado is only administrative with an application fee.

Utah, Wyoming, and Oregon/Washington are currently considering adding application fees.

BLM Utah had an application fee proposal nearly complete in 2014.

- Approved by Utah Leadership Team and RAC

Current proposal and process has been shaped via interface with:

- BLM Headquarters
- Colorado, Wyoming, Oregon/Washington BLM Recreation Leads
- Solicitors
- Utah SRP Team
- BLM Utah Leadership Team



Why Does Utah Need an SRP Application Fee?

Promote serious applications

- Incentivize complete and well constructed applications

Promote follow through on applications

- Incentivize commitment of applicants

Promote actual use of SRPs

- Help avoid low or no use permits

Help offset the cost of processing SRPs

- Estimated at \$700-\$1,950 per application



Proposed Application Fees

Fee Structure – Applies to all permit types	
Application Fee (new permits)	150% of current annual minimum use fee. Current application fee would be \$195.
Renewal Fee (re-issuance of expiring permits)	150% of current annual minimum use fee. Current application fee would be \$195.
Transfer Fee	150% of current annual minimum use fee. Current application fee would be \$195.



Considerations



- Impact on applicants
 - How may applicants respond?
 - Impacts to operators of differing scales
- Impact on revenue
 - Anticipated to be around \$39,000 annually based on FY23 application numbers
- Impacts to Organized Groups
 - Organized groups permits vary greatly from elaborate gatherings to simple family reunions
 - In extraordinary circumstances where the authorized officer determines that effort to process an application is de minimis, the authorized officer may elect to waive the application fee



Discussion and RAC Input

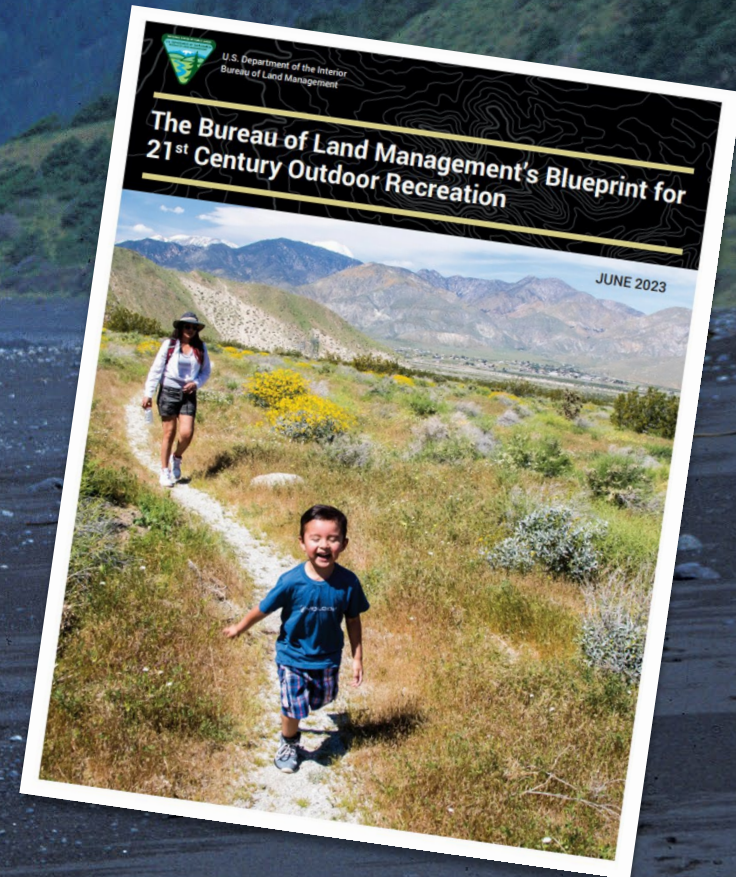




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Utah Recreation Summit – RAC Recap

Blueprint for 21st Century Outdoor Recreation





Blueprint vision

To provide exceptional and one-of-a-kind recreational experiences that invite all to share in the enjoyment and stewardship of their public lands.



Blueprint Vision and Key Concepts

"Our Blueprint vision is to provide exceptional and one-of-a-kind recreational experiences that invite all to share in the enjoyment and stewardship of their public lands."

Four Strategic Pillars:

01

Grow and diversify resources for BLM recreation

02

Prioritize and embrace partnerships

03

Expand outreach and establish a culture of inclusion

04

Meet the demand, protect resources and improve access



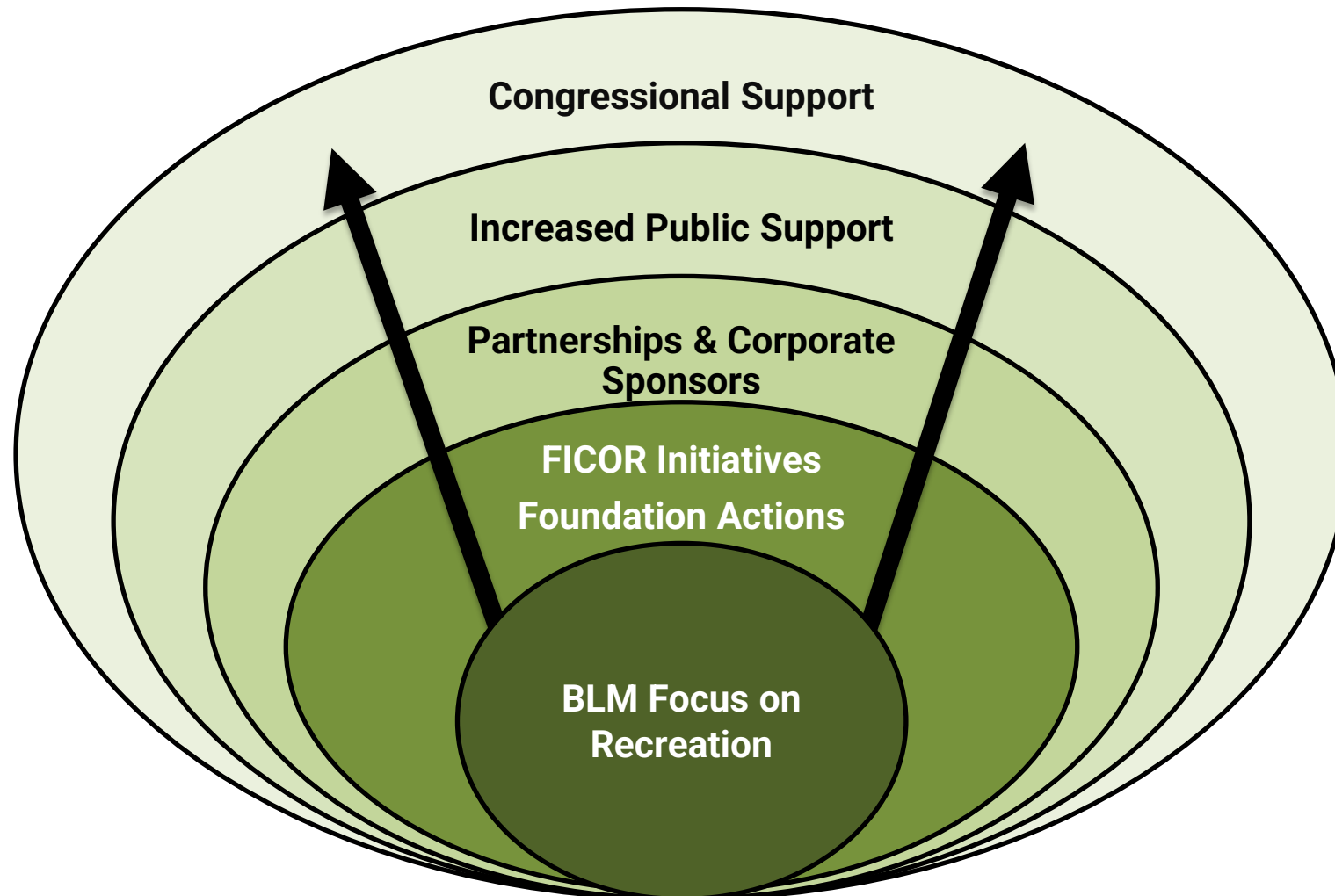
Blueprint Impact: Meet the Needs of Today and the Future



BLM Focus on
Recreation



Blueprint Impact: Meet the Needs of Today and the Future





Blueprint Implementation

3-Step Process

- 1 State/Field Assessments
- 2 State Recreation Summits
- 3 State Action Plans





State Recreation Summits

State	Month	Location
Nevada	July 11	Reno/Sparks
Utah	August 29	Bryce Canyon
New Mexico/Texas	September 5	Albuquerque
Alaska	October 8	Fairbanks
Colorado	December 11	Denver/Lakewood

Invitations to Partners, Foundations, State and Local Governments will be going out from the states ~45 days in advance

Interested in attending a specific or all state summits?

Email Matt Blocker mblocker@BLM.gov and me koliver@blm.gov



Utah Summit – August 29th

- Followed State Organized Recreation Summit at Ruby's Inn
- Well attended (48 joined event)
- Great Feedback!



Wide Range of Perspectives

- State, County and Local Government
- Tourism well represented
- OHV and Access Interests
- Environmental Interests
- Commercial and Citizens Groups





Great Input and Feedback!

- Responded to BLM's draft assessment – what are their priority action items?
 - Challenges
 - Opportunities
- What do they see missing, needs to be added to BLM's Action Plan going forward?



Top Challenges?

- BLM facilities and staffing levels don't match demand
- Dispersed camping and human waste management
- Increased visitation, impacts to cultural sites/natural resources, crowding



Top Opportunities?

- Engage more deeply with local counties & communities
- Expand and improve motorized trails, enhance partnerships for access
- Focus on responsible recreation/education, recreation that protects natural and cultural resources
- Develop additional non-fee recreational facilities
- Broad call to do more/do better (partnerships, volunteers, tourism, dispersed camping, trails)



What's Missing from BLM Assessment?

- Better align BLM and local communities/priorities
- Consistent implementation across BLM districts and field offices
- Better define sustainable
- Suggestions for Volunteer and Community Engagement, Technology and Modernization, Economic benefit messaging, funding and financial sustainability, cultural sensitivity, visitor experience feedback



Was it a success? Yes, and stay connected

- Great ground level suggestions, actionable ideas
- Recognition of leveraging relationships in the room and others missing, interested to join in the future
- Appreciation for BLM Asking and Listening
- Call for BLM to keep up this type of communication and engagement
- Never before national acknowledgement of the importance of recreation on BLM managed public lands



State Action Plans

- Informed by state/field assessments **and summits**
- Guide state/local investments, partnerships, outreach, and program development
- Expand and diversify partner engagement
- Improve recreation opportunities and safeguard vulnerable natural and cultural resources
- Guide us to a better future for our public lands and communities!

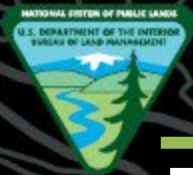




"Exceptional and One-of-a-Kind Recreational Experiences"

A group of approximately 13 people, including men and women of various ages, are posed for a group photo. They are standing in two rows against a wood-paneled wall. Many are wearing blue polo shirts with the BLM logo. One man on the far left is wearing a dark suit jacket over a blue shirt. The group is smiling and looking towards the camera. Some are holding papers or a coffee cup.

Questions?



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Renewable Energy

BLM-managed public lands in Utah



Fervo Energy Cape Geothermal power project (under construction), and Milford Wind project, Beaver County, Utah.



Renewable Energy Coordination Offices (RECOs)

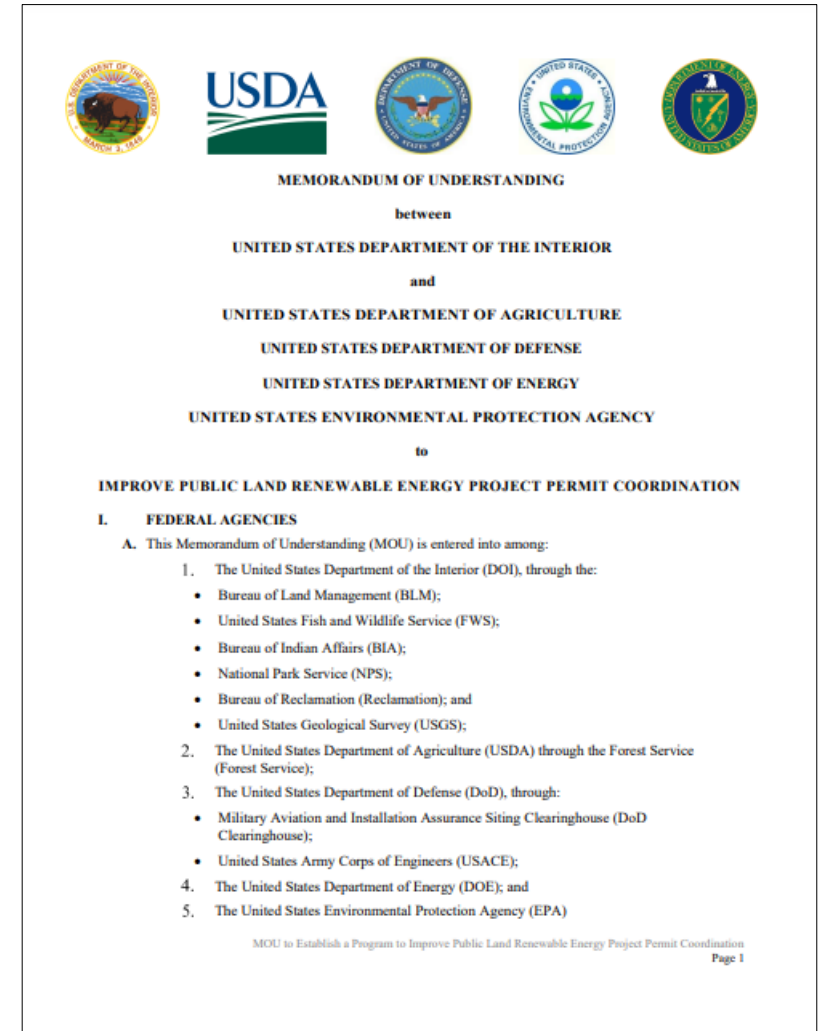
The BLM RECOs were established pursuant to the Energy Act of 2020, consisting of:

- National RECO within BLM Headquarters (HQ-330)
- State RECOs located in BLM Arizona, BLM California, and BLM Nevada
- Regional RECO led by BLM Utah, covering BLM Colorado, BLM New Mexico, BLM Utah, and BLM Wyoming

The BLM RECOs utilize the interagency MOU to:

- Implement improved coordination among agencies
- Help avoid and resolve potential conflicts and bottlenecks
- Identify best practices
- Accelerate information sharing
- Promote efficient and timely reviews

Sources: <https://www.blm.gov/policy/ib-2022-040> and <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/mou-esb46-04208-pub-land-renewable-energy-proj-permit-coord-doi-usda-dod-epa-doe-2022-01-06.pdf>





National BLM Renewable Energy Updates

Updated Regulations ([43 CFR 2800](#))

- Final Rulemaking - Rights-of-Way, Leasing, and Operations for Renewable Energy (Effective July 1, 2024)

Updated Policy: New Rates and Fees

- [Instruction Memorandum 2024-044](#) - Implementing New Rates for Acreage Rent, Capacity Fee, Reductions and Payment Requirements for Solar and Wind Energy Developments

[Western Solar Plan](#)

Final Programmatic EIS and Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendments for Utility-Scale Solar Energy Development, also known as the proposed updated **Western Solar Plan**

- Record of Decision expected late December 2024



Appaloosa Solar, Iron County, Utah



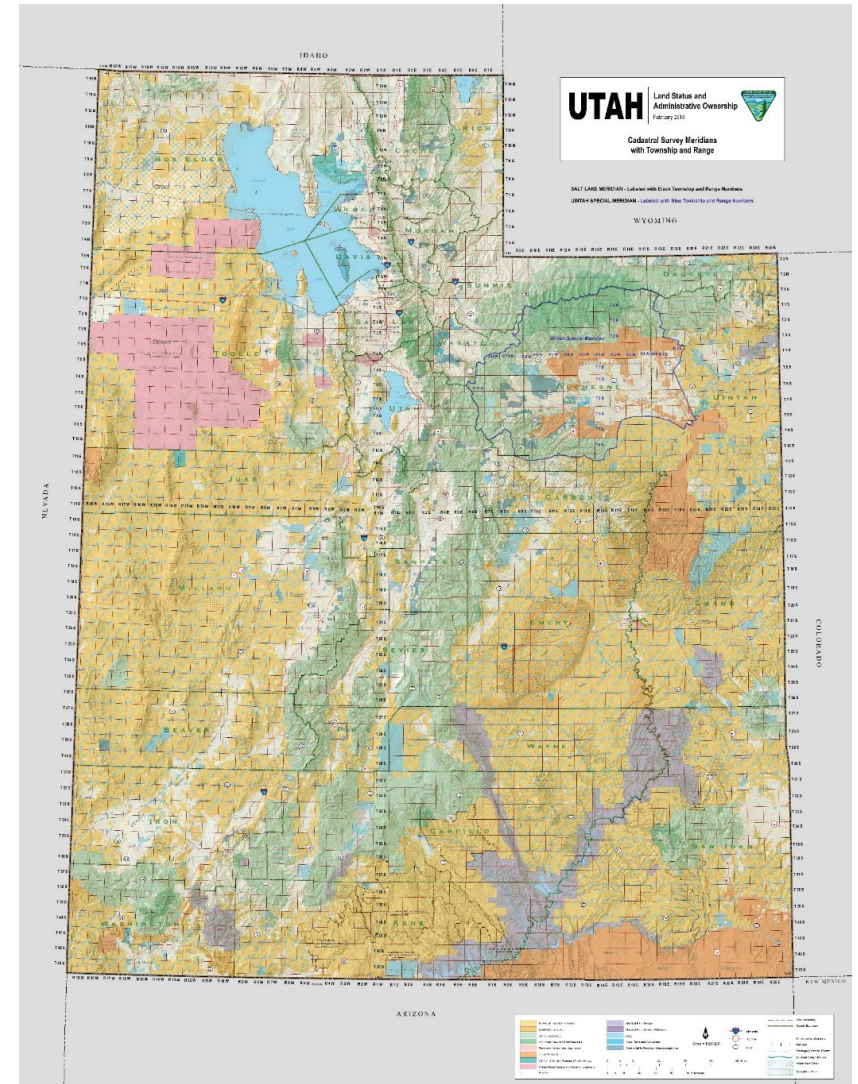
Why developers are interested in BLM Utah

The BLM manages nearly 22.8 million acres of public lands in Utah, representing about 42 percent of the state. Utah has the second most BLM-managed public lands, in the lower 48, following Nevada:

- Nevada: ~47 million acres
- Utah: ~22.8 million acres
- Wyoming: ~18 million acres

Utah offers:

- Excellent potential for solar, wind, and geothermal energy
- Land sizes that supports utility scale development projects (7-8 acres/MW)
- Available lands near major infrastructure and Interconnection points



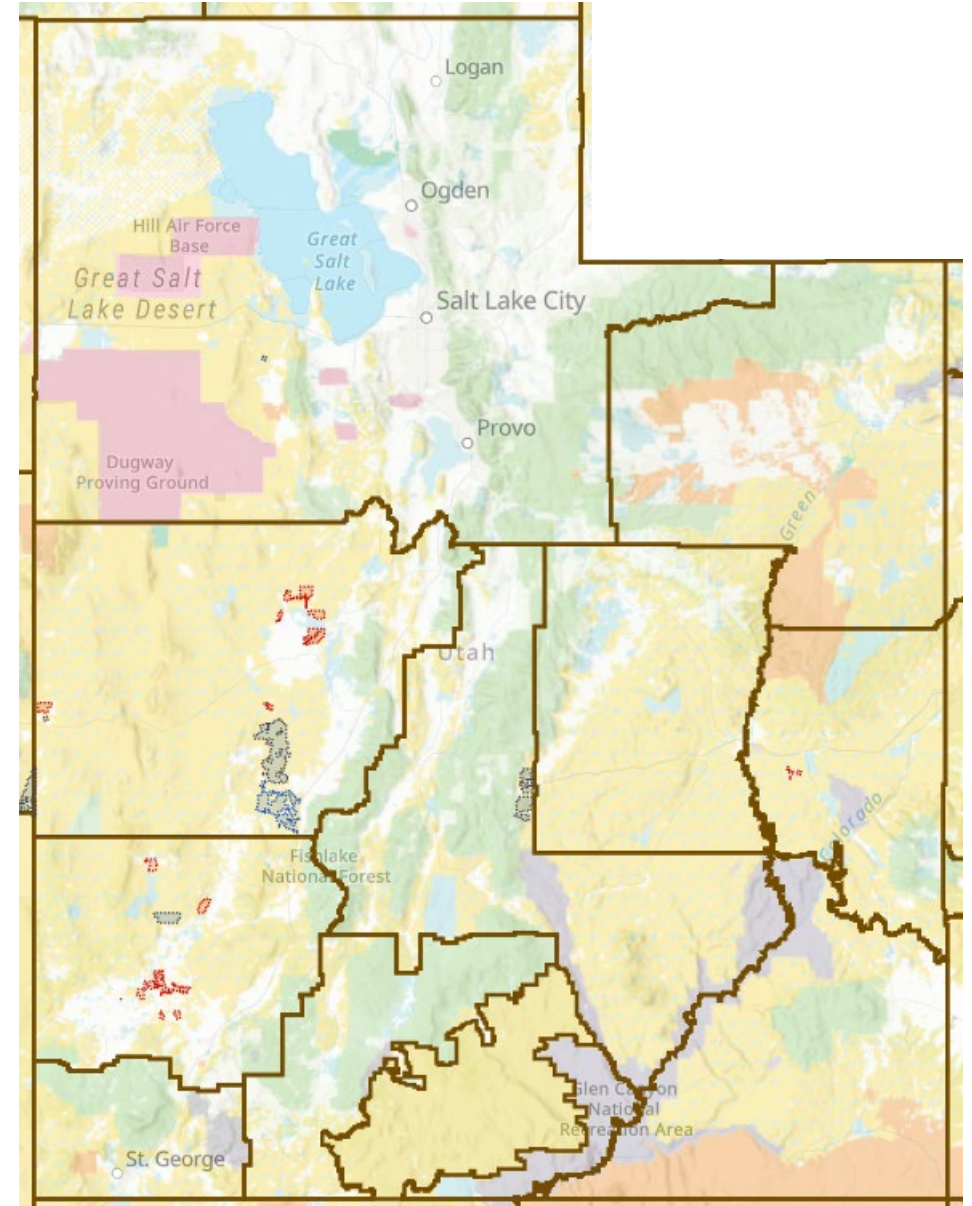


Pending Wind/Solar Renewable Energy Projects

Field Office	Wind Development	Solar Development	Testing	TOTALS
Cedar City	-	3	1	4
Fillmore	1	8	3	12
Kanab	-	-	-	-
Moab	-	1	-	1
Monticello	-	-	-	-
Price	-	-	-	-
Richfield	-	-	1	1
Salt Lake	-	-	-	-
St. George	-	-	-	-
Vernal	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	1	12	5	18

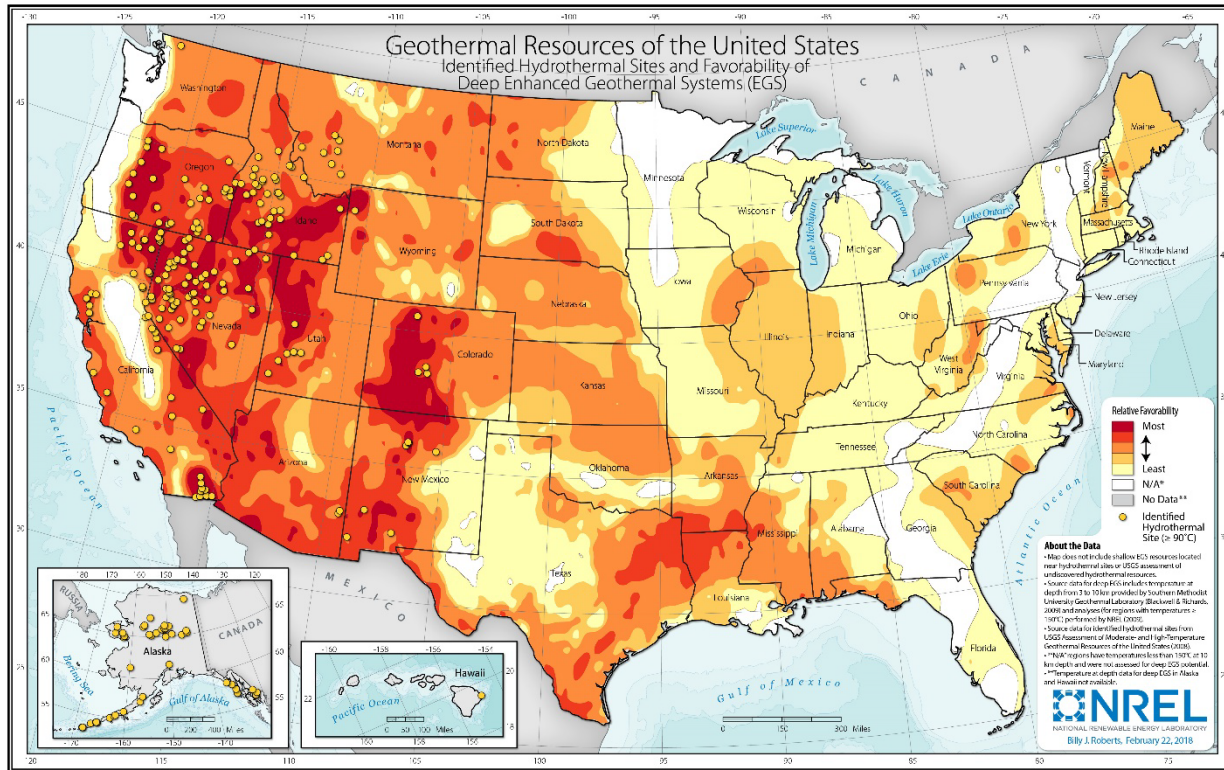
Source: <https://reports.blm.gov/reports/MLRS>

Date of report: November 5, 2024





Geothermal Energy Potential



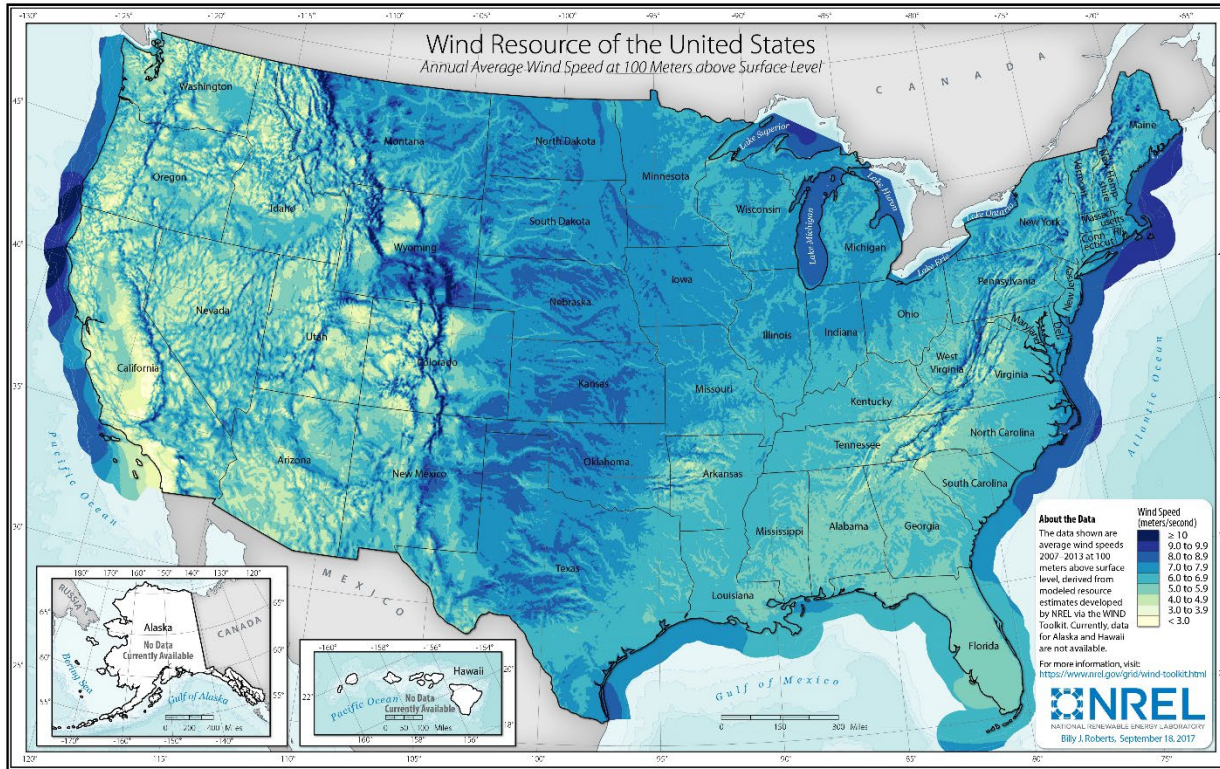
Utah has three operating geothermal power plants, all located in Beaver County: Blundell (34 MW) and Cove Fort (34 MW) on federal lands, and Thermo (14 MW) on private/state lands. Additionally, Utah has one recently approved geothermal power plant, the Fervo Cape, which is situated on federal, private, and state lands and has the potential to generate up to 2 GW once fully developed.

Utah is poised to become a technology leader in geothermal energy, exemplified by the Fervo Cape, which utilizes an enhanced geothermal system to generate electricity by injecting water into hot subsurface rock formations and extracting the heated water, rather than relying on naturally occurring underground hot water like traditional geothermal systems.

Map Source: <https://www.nrel.gov/geothermal/publications.html>



Wind Energy Potential



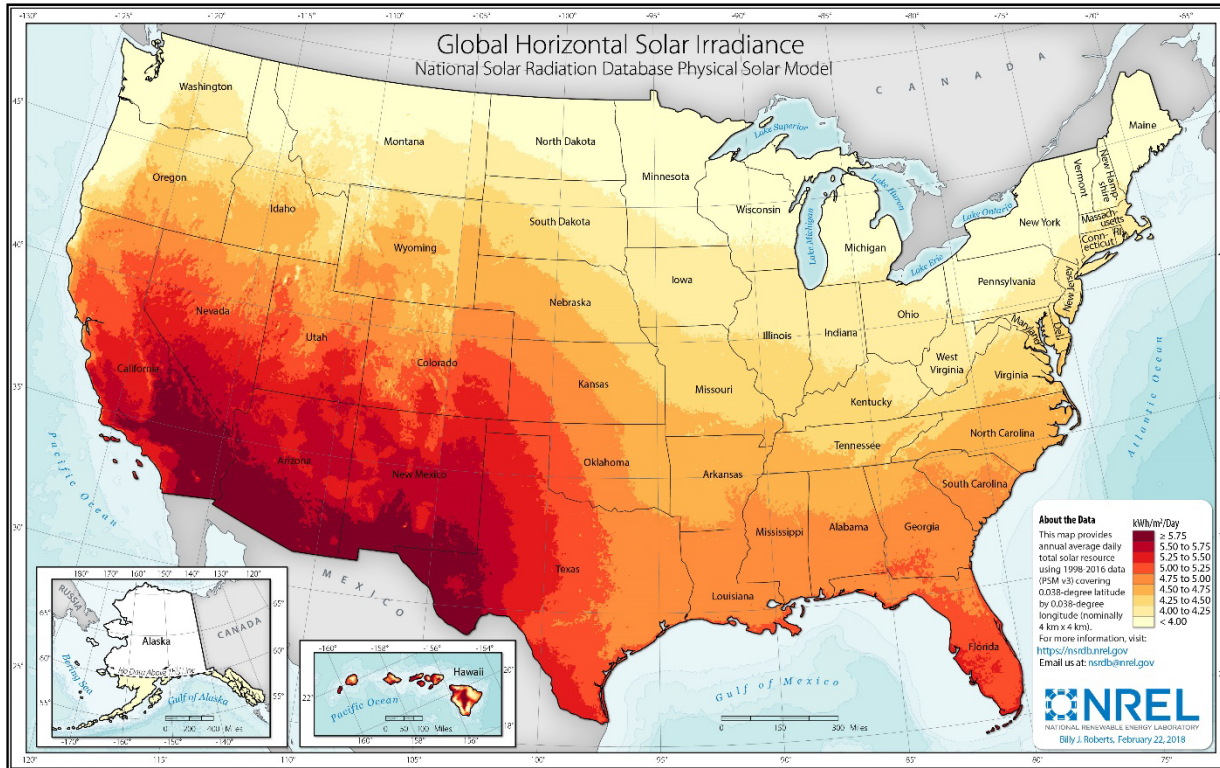
Map Source: <https://www.nrel.gov/gis/wind-resource-maps.html>

BLM Utah has authorized one wind energy development project near Milford that was built in two phases. Collectively the project generates over 300 megawatts spanning Beaver and Millard Counties. It became the state's largest wind facility when the first phase was completed in 2009.

BLM Utah is currently processing and analyzing multiple project-area testing projects and one development project located in the central and southwestern portion of the state.



Solar Energy Potential



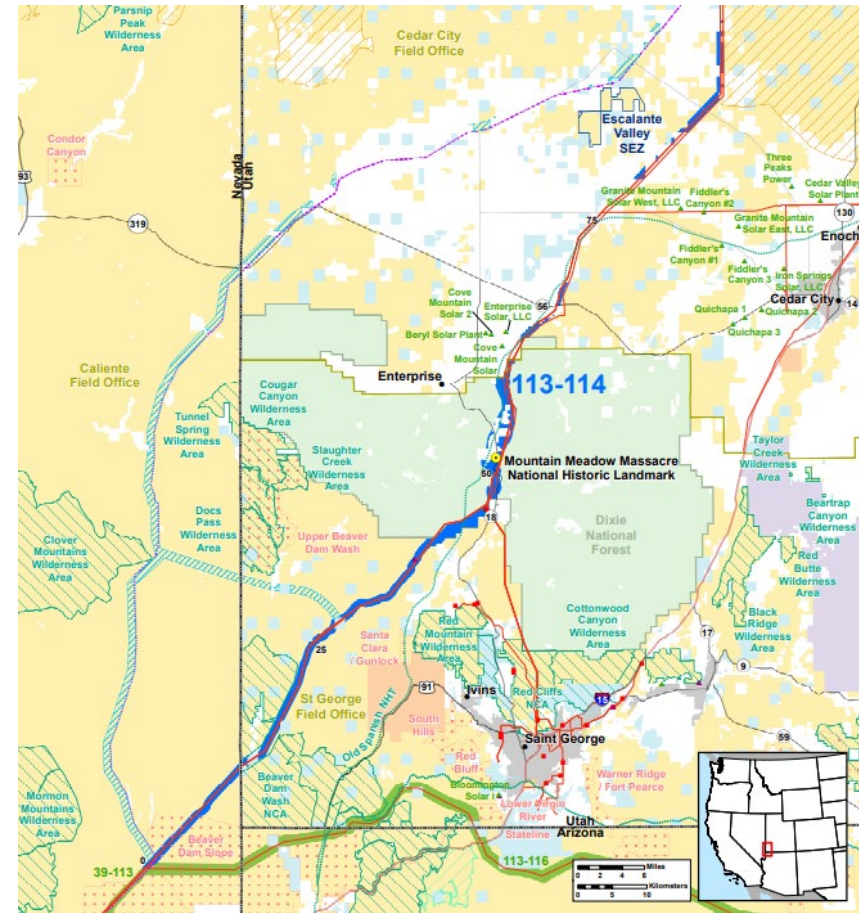
The BLM has established Solar Energy Zones (SEZs) like Milford Flats South, which was leased in 2022 and could produce around 600 MW. Additionally, the Escalante Valley and Wah Wah Valley SEZs are poised to support solar power generation.

There is growing interest in solar energy development outside the designated SEZs due to the availability of land situated near existing transmission lines. This proximity enhances the feasibility of connecting new solar projects to the electrical grid, encouraging further investment and development in the region's solar potential.

Map Source: <https://www.nrel.gov/gis/solar-resource-maps.html>



West-Wide Energy Corridors



Map Source: <https://corridoreis.anl.gov/maps/> and <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2022227/510>



Story Map



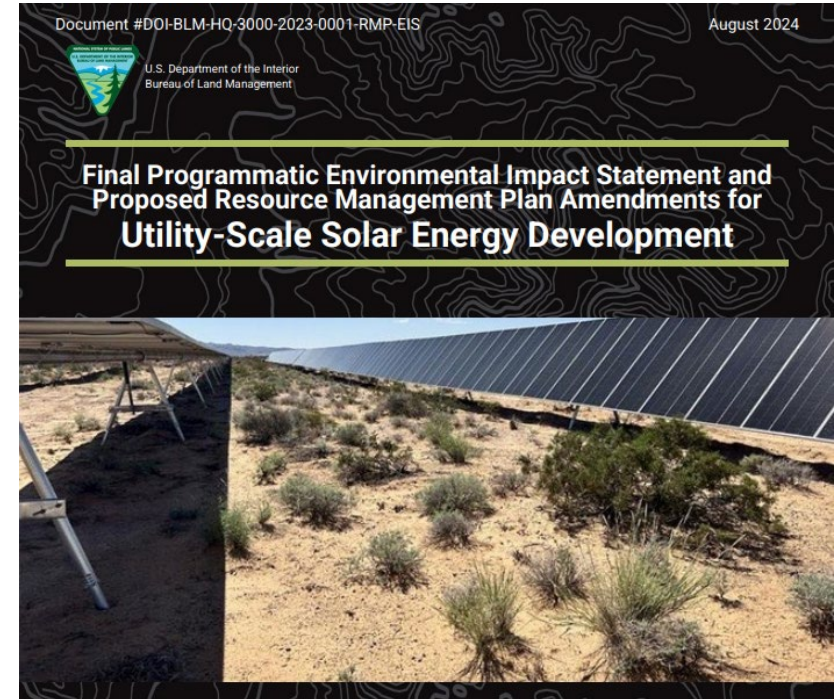
(DRAFT) Renewable Energy on BLM Public Lands in Utah

Geothermal, wind, and solar power projects and transmission
lines



Western Solar Plan Timeline

Action	Date(s)
Notice of Intent to Prepare PEIS to Evaluate Utility-Scale Solar Energy Planning and Amend RMPs for Renewable Energy Development	December 8, 2022
60-day Scoping Period	December 8, 2022 – February 6, 2023
Utah Scoping Meeting (in-person, Salt Lake City)	February 7, 2023
Notice of Availability of Draft PEIS for Utility-Scale Solar Energy Development and Notice of Public Meeting	January 19, 2024
90-Day Public Comment Period	January 19 – April 18, 2024
Utah Public Meeting (in-person, Cedar City)	February 12, 2024
Notice of Availability of Final PEIS for Utility-Scale Solar Energy Development and Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendments	August 30, 2024
30-day Protest Period	August 30 – September 30, 2024
60-day Governors’ Consistency Review	August 30 – October 29, 2024
Notice of Availability for Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan Amendment	Late December 2024





Western Solar Plan Updates



The updated **Western Solar Plan**:

- Covers more states
- Keep sensitive areas off-limits
- Improves required protective measures for projects
- Requires further project-specific reviews
- Eliminates the current variance process
- **Does not** affirmatively designate particular areas as suitable for development
- **Does not** approve any solar project

Project-specific reviews:

- Ensure consistency with the applicable land use plan
- Conduct detailed environmental review
- Consider Areas of Special Concern, resource-related impacts, public concerns, and proximity to important resources



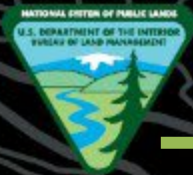
Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act (PLREDA), or H.R. 8954

Current Revenue Distribution:

- All revenues from renewable energy development currently go to the U.S. Treasury, with no local benefits.
- Currently, states and local governments receive revenue generated by a variety of other activities on public lands – such as states receiving the revenues generated by oil, gas, and coal development within their borders.

PLREDA Proposed Revenue Distribution:

- 25% to the state where the revenue is generated.
- 25% to the counties where the revenue is generated, based on the percentage of land used in each county.
- 25% to the Secretary of the Interior for administering BLM's renewable energy program, including the processing of renewable energy permits on federal land. The Secretary can allocate funds from the new Fund to
 - Federal and state agencies.
 - Tribes for the protection and restoration of important fish and wildlife habitats and water resources.
 - Securing recreational access to federal lands.
- 25% deposited into a new Renewable Energy Resource Conservation Fund.



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Thank you!



Fervo Energy Cape Geothermal power project (under construction), and Milford Wind project, Beaver County, Utah.