



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

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# Statewide Resource Advisory Council Meeting

April 2, 2025

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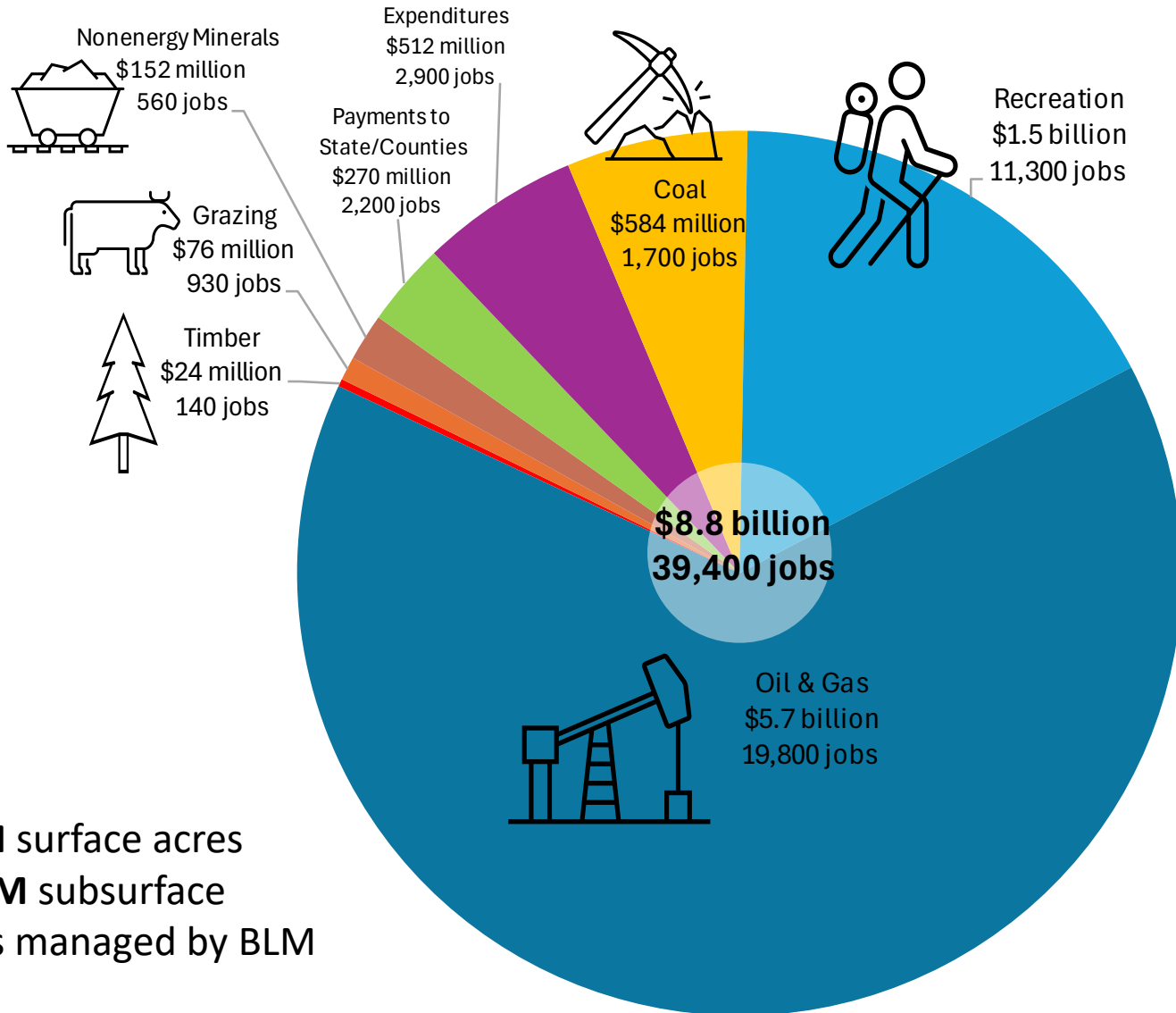


*Handies Peak Wilderness Study Area*



# BLM Colorado Economic Contributions

## Total Output by Resource, FY 23

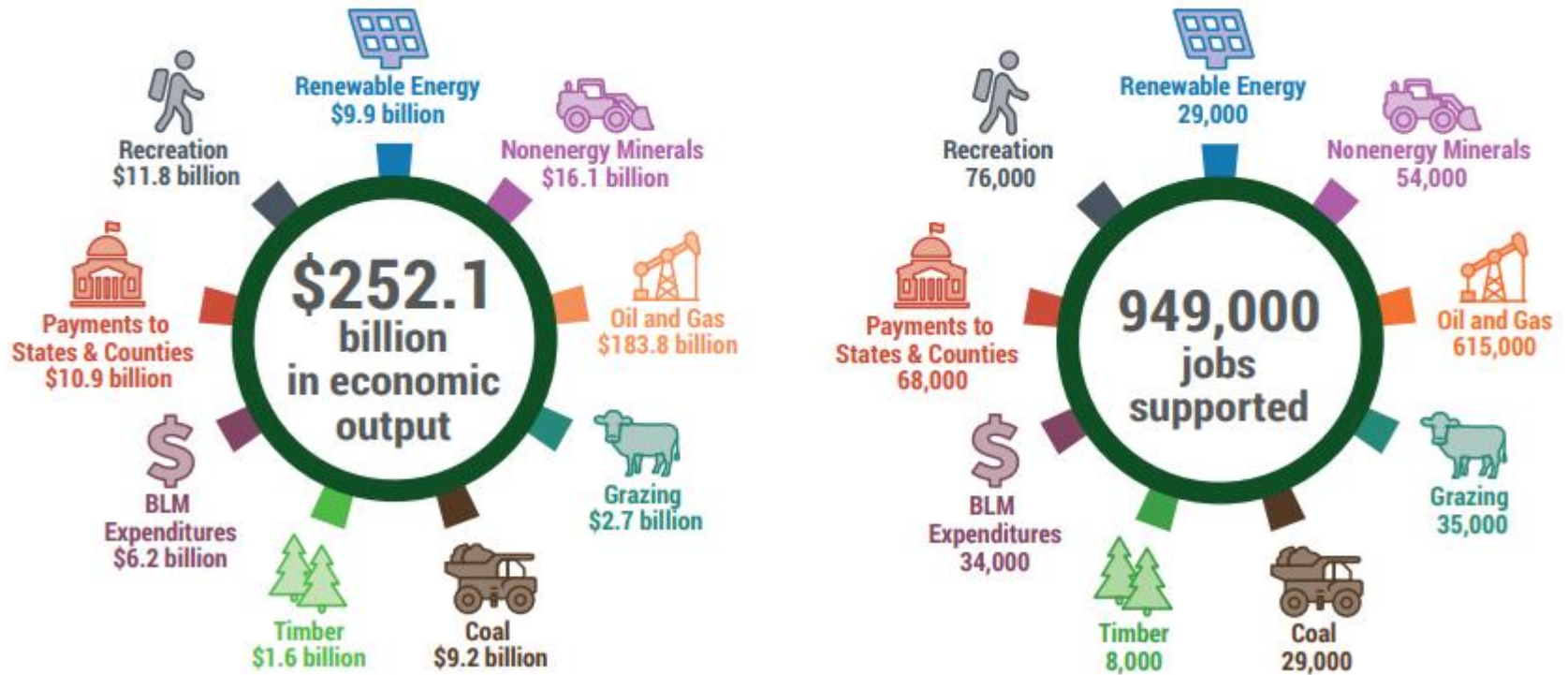


**8.3M** surface acres  
**27.1M** subsurface  
acres managed by BLM



# Economic Contributions from BLM-Managed Lands

Fiscal Year 2023



All reported economic outputs and jobs are rounded. The two totals reflect the sum of unrounded values.



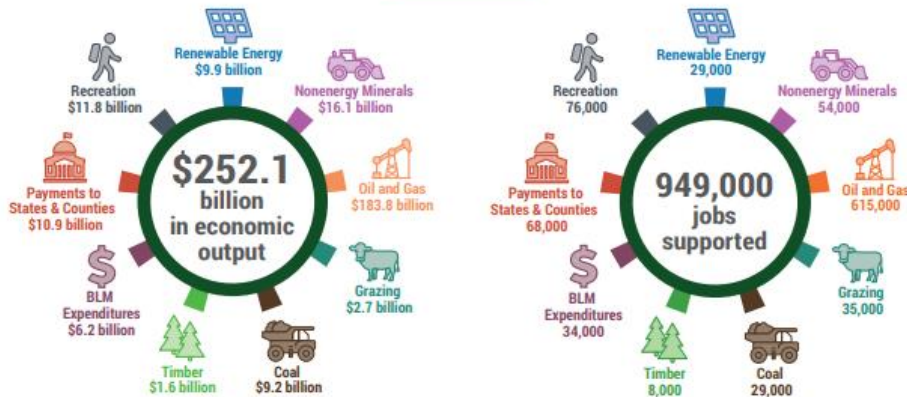
# The BLM: Valuing America's Public Lands 2024

As steward for approximately 245 million acres 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, for the benefit of all Americans. These public lands include rangelands, forests, mountains, arctic tundra, and deserts and encompass one-tenth of the nation's surface and approximately one-third of its subsurface mineral resources. The BLM authorizes responsible resource use on these lands while conserving the natural and cultural legacy of iconic landscapes and sustaining healthy ecosystems that provide clean air and water and support biodiversity.

Activities related to BLM land management support hundreds of thousands of jobs and generate billions of dollars in revenue for communities across the country. This brochure provides a snapshot of how the diverse activities the BLM authorized on public lands during fiscal year (FY) 2023 generated \$252.1 billion in total economic output. This economic activity supported 949,000 total jobs and contributed substantial revenue to the U.S. Treasury and state governments. This includes contributions to the economy from the BLM's expenditures while carrying out its mission, as well as payments the agency transfers to states and counties.

## Economic Contributions from BLM-Managed Lands

Fiscal Year 2023

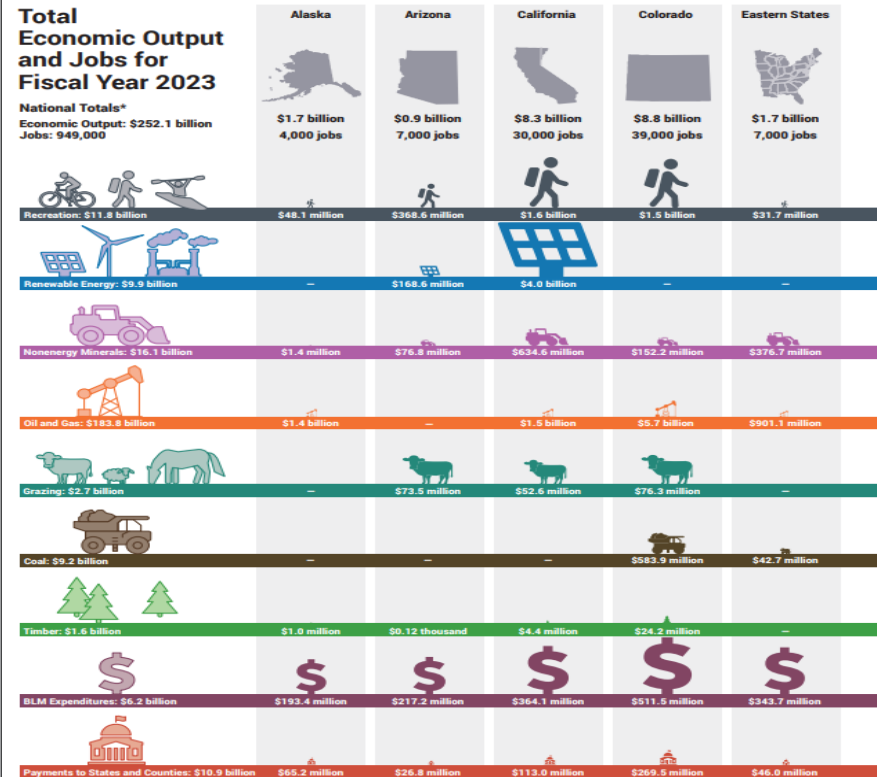


All reported economic outputs and jobs are rounded. The two totals reflect the sum of unrounded values.

# BLM's Valuing America's Public Lands 2024 Brochure

## Total Economic Output and Jobs for Fiscal Year 2023

National Totals\*  
Economic Output: \$252.1 billion  
Jobs: 949,000



\* The national totals differ from the sum of individual state numbers because they account for activity across state borders and average industry productivity across states.



# Economic Contributions 101

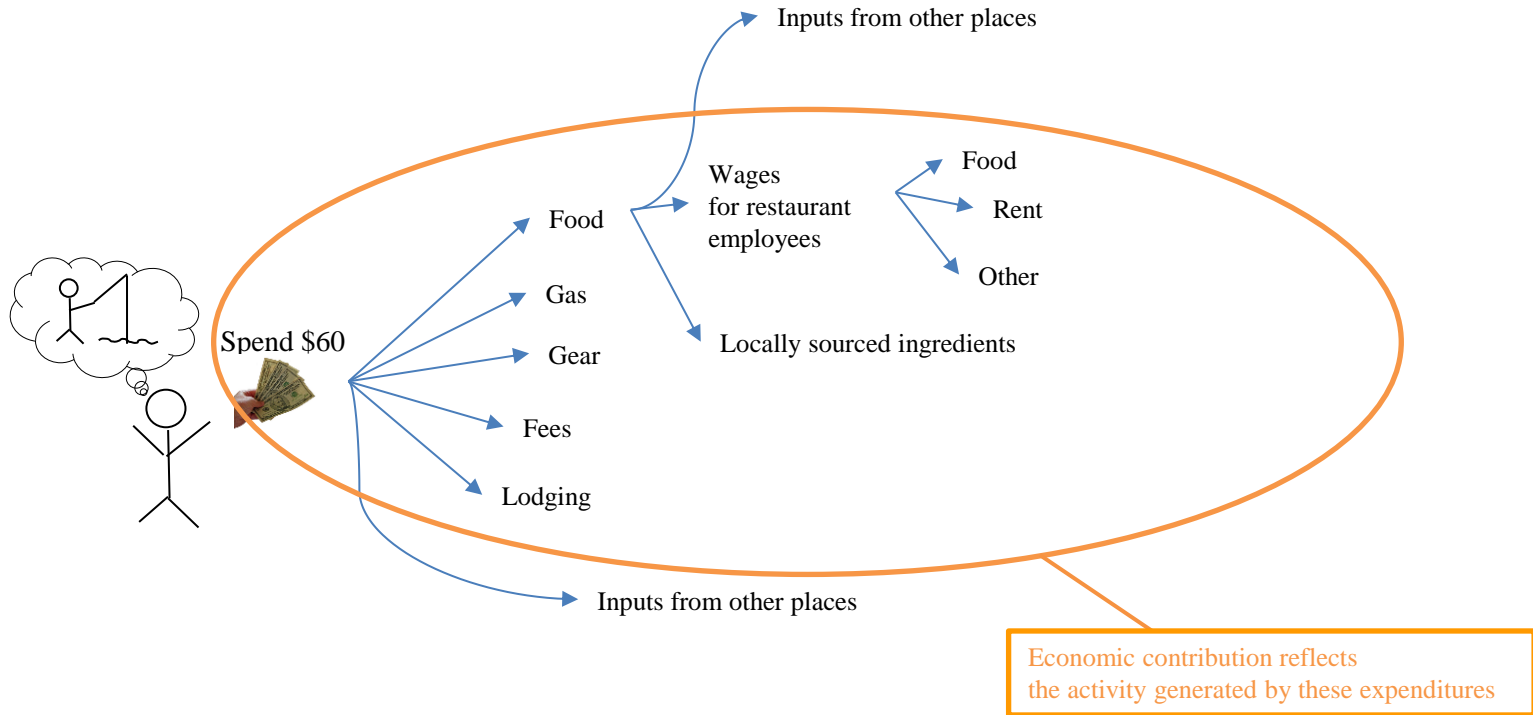
Key Question: How does spending in one sector of the economy affect overall economic activity in an area?





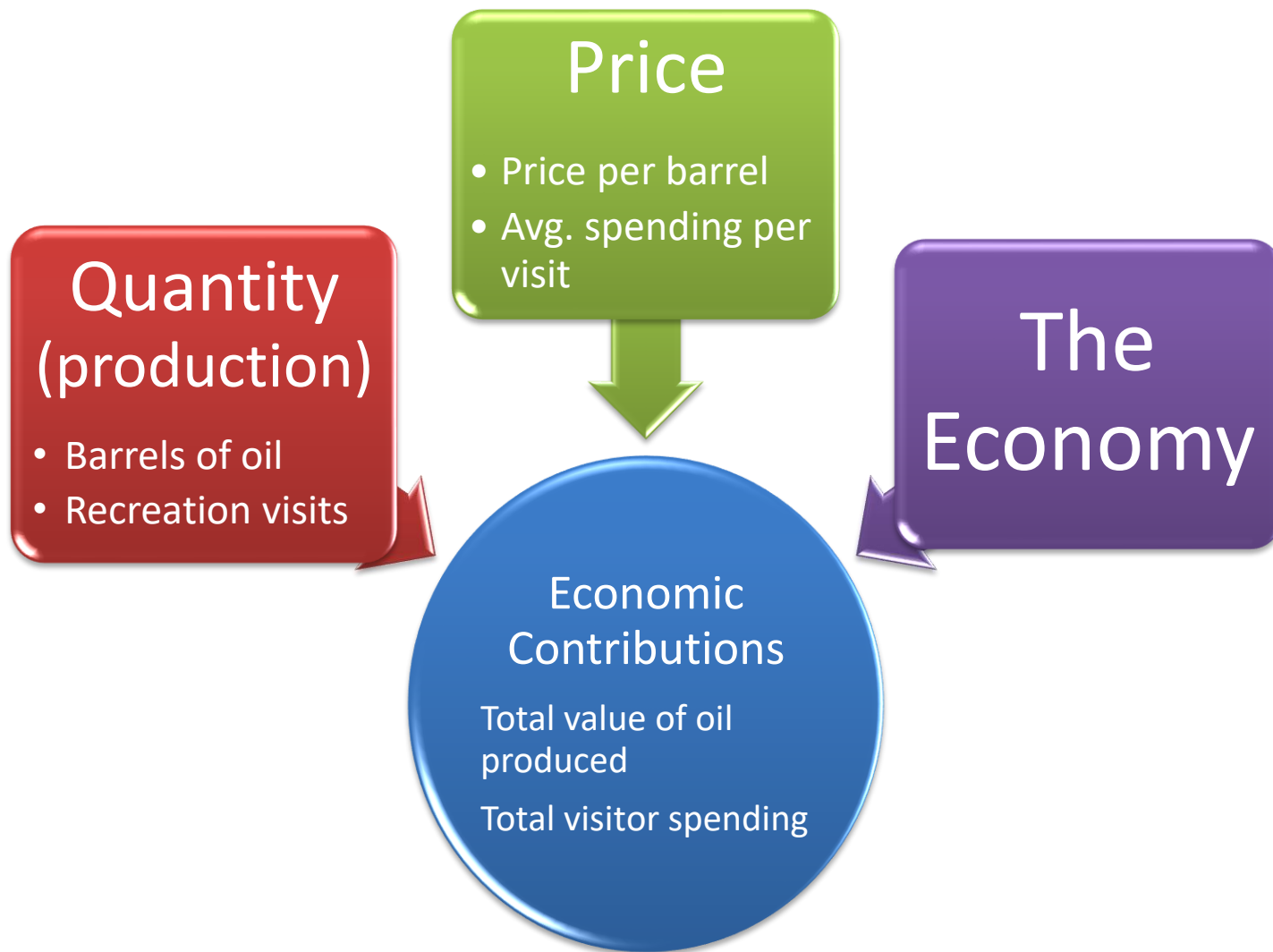
# Economic Contributions 101

Key Question: How does spending in one sector of the economy affect overall economic activity in an area?





# How do we estimate contributions?





# Economic Sectors

## 3 Ingredients

1. Volume
2. Market value
3. Model of the economy



## Recreation

(based on visitation, trip related expenditures, & secondary effects of economic activity)



## Renewable Energy

(based on construction such as project capacity and construction costs, production including installed capacity and capacity factors, & output price)



## Nonenergy Minerals

(based on amount of minerals extracted in a given year, per unit market price for these minerals, & secondary effects of economic activity)



## Oil & Gas

(based on volume of oil and gas produced & number of wells spudded & completed; price per resource, cost to drill or complete; secondary effects of economic activity)





# Economic Sectors Cont'd

## 3 Ingredients

1. Volume
2. Market value
3. Model of the economy



## Grazing

(based on billed AUMs or animal unit months; market value of the livestock; & secondary effects how activity affects other sectors of the economy)



## Coal

(based on short tons, market price per short ton, & economic activity)



## Timber

(includes those from harvesting and processing; volumes are based on resource use levels; per unit market price or cost; & economic activity)



## Payments to States & Counties

(PILT)



## BLM Expenditures

(permanent, term, & seasonal worker impacts that generate economic activity)



# What metrics are reported?



FT, PT, &  
seasonal  
employees;  
does not  
include FTE



Wages,  
salaries, &  
benefits



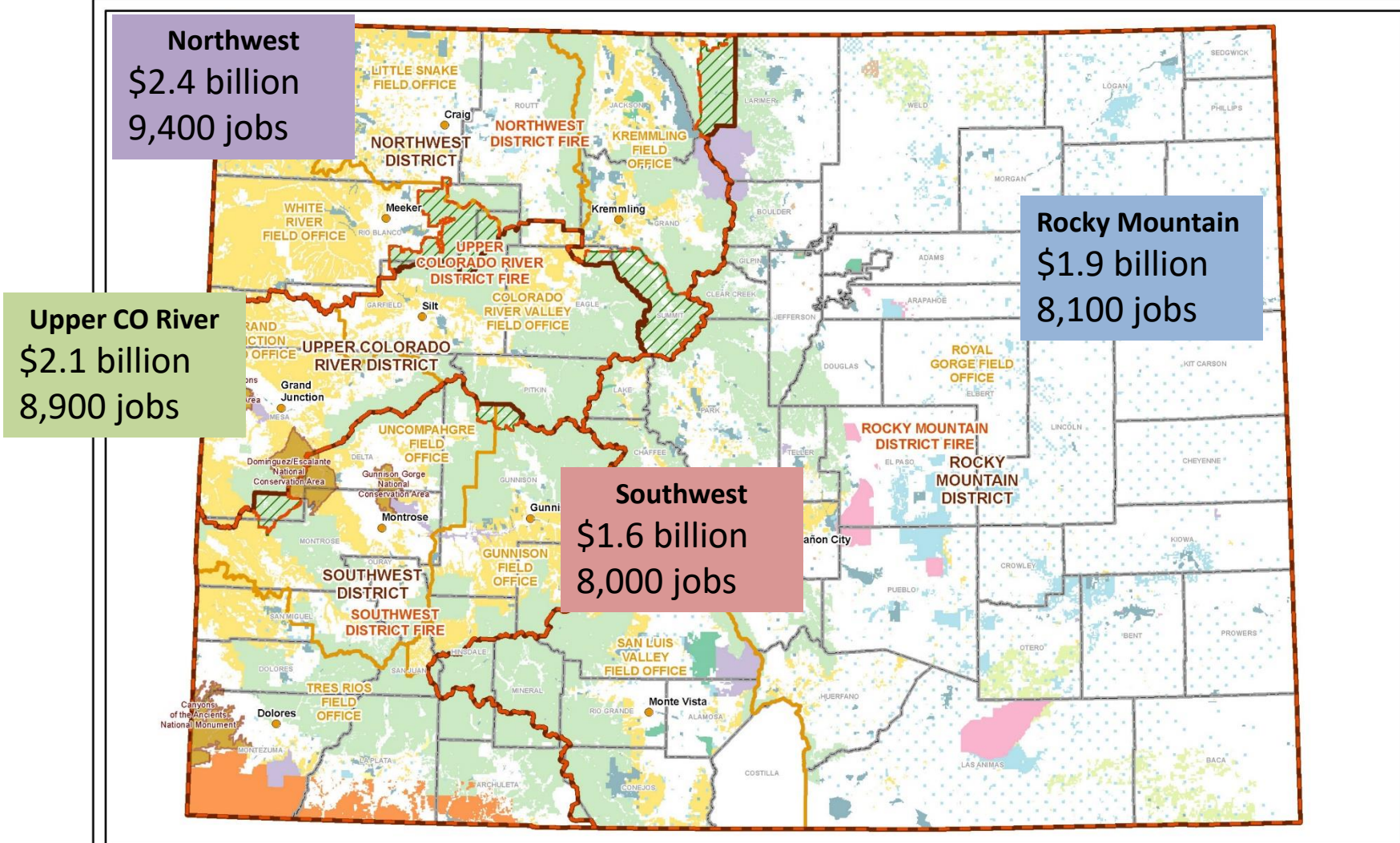
Market value  
of production  
of  
goods/services

## Direct effects

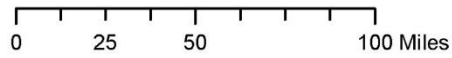
*Economic activity directly attributable to resource*

## Total effects

*Includes direct & ripple effects*



- Field Office Location
- USFS & Dispatch Zone Overlap Response Area
- Military Reservation
- State, County, City: Recreation Areas
- BLM Fire Unit Boundaries
- County Boundaries
- National Grasslands
- Bankhead-Jones Land Use Lands
- National Monuments & National Conservation Areas
- Bureau of Land Management
- National Park Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Private
- US Forest Service
- BLM District Office Areas
- Indian Reservation
- State
- BLM Field Office Areas



**NOTE TO MAP USER**  
NO WARRANTY IS MADE BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AS TO THE ACCURACY, RELIABILITY, OR COMPLETENESS OF THESE DATA FOR INDIVIDUAL USE OR AGGREGATION USE WITH OTHER DATA.

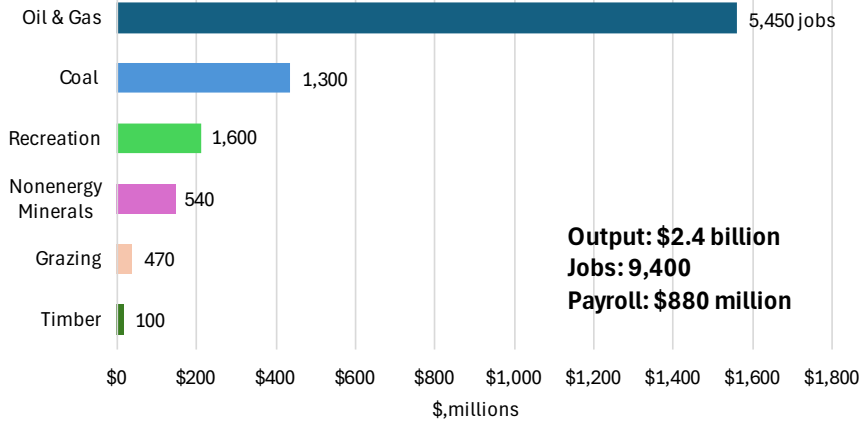
**BLM Colorado Administrative Units**



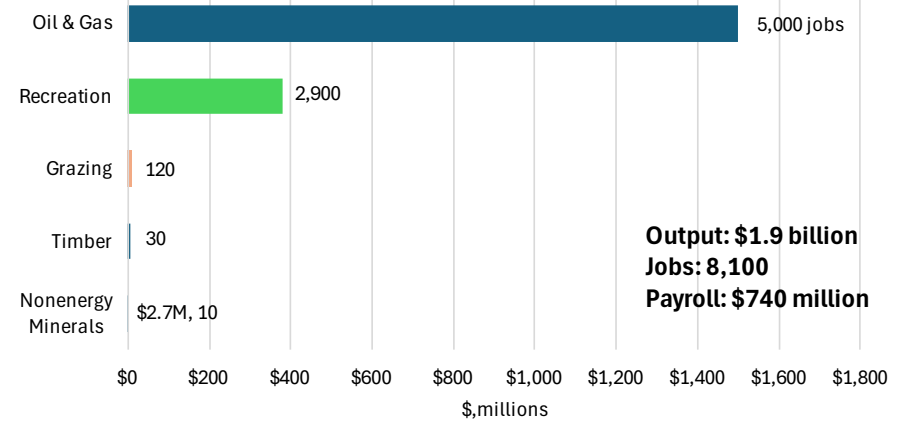


# BLM Colorado Economic Contributions by District

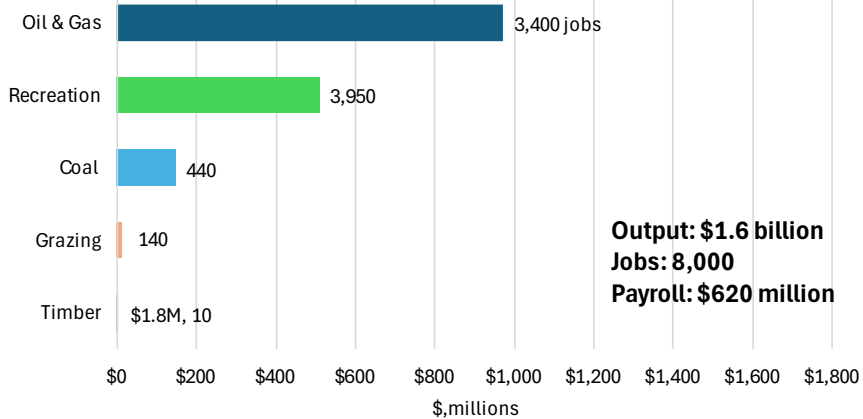
**Northwest District Economic Contributions (\$ millions)  
By Resource FY 23**



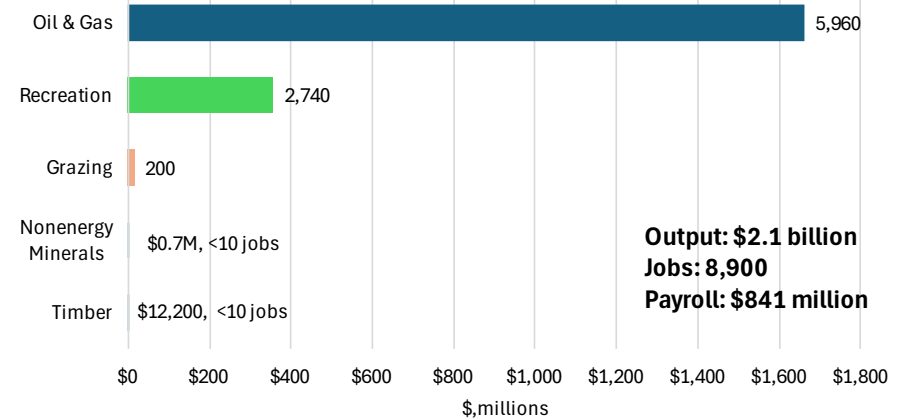
**Rocky Mountain District Economic Contributions (\$ millions)  
By Resource FY 23**



**Southwest District Economic Contributions (\$ millions)  
By Resource FY 23**



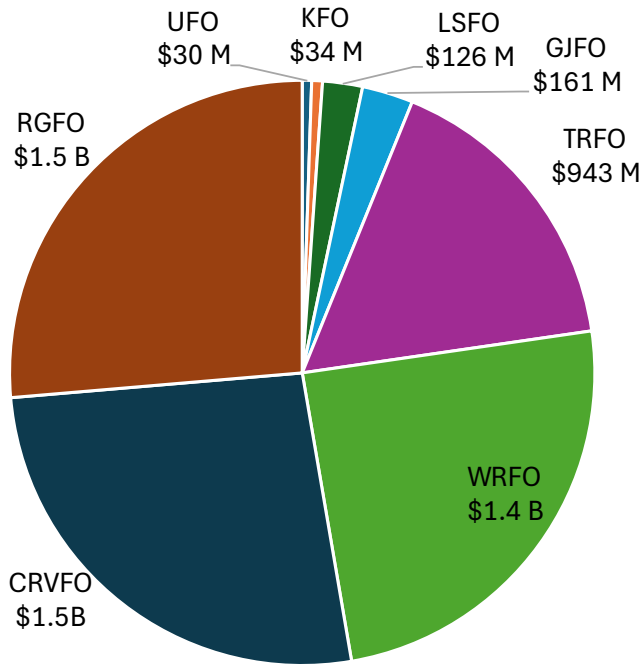
**Upper Colorado River District Economic Contributions (\$ millions)  
By Resource FY 23**





# Resource Use by Field Office

Economic Output-Oil & Gas by Field Office, FY 2023



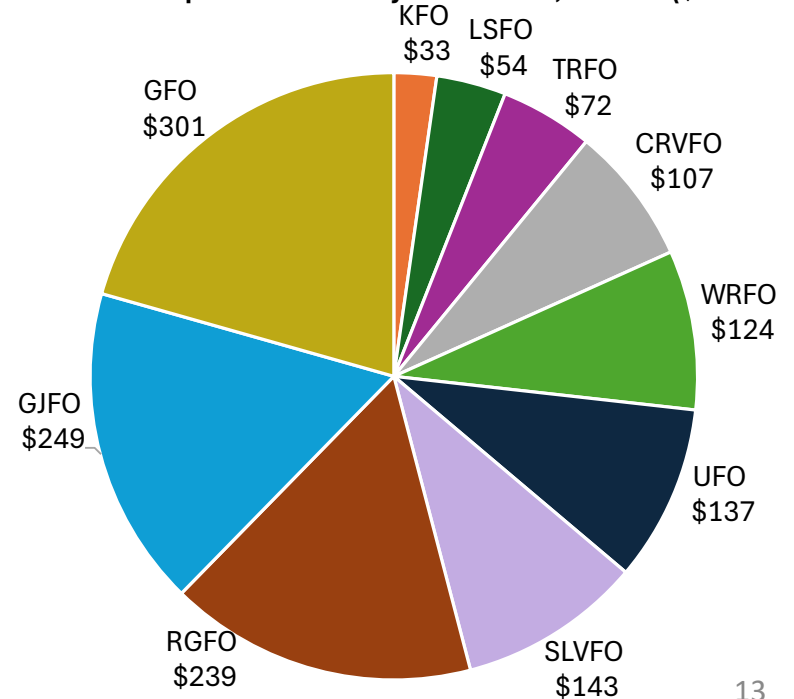
## Oil & Gas

- \$5.7 billion, 19,800 jobs
- RGFO, CRVFO, & WRFO contribute \$4.4 billion, >15,000 jobs
- 8 out of 10 field offices

## Recreation

- \$1.5 billion, 11,300 jobs
- GFO, GJFO, & RGFO contributed 54% of the total statewide recreation
- All field offices

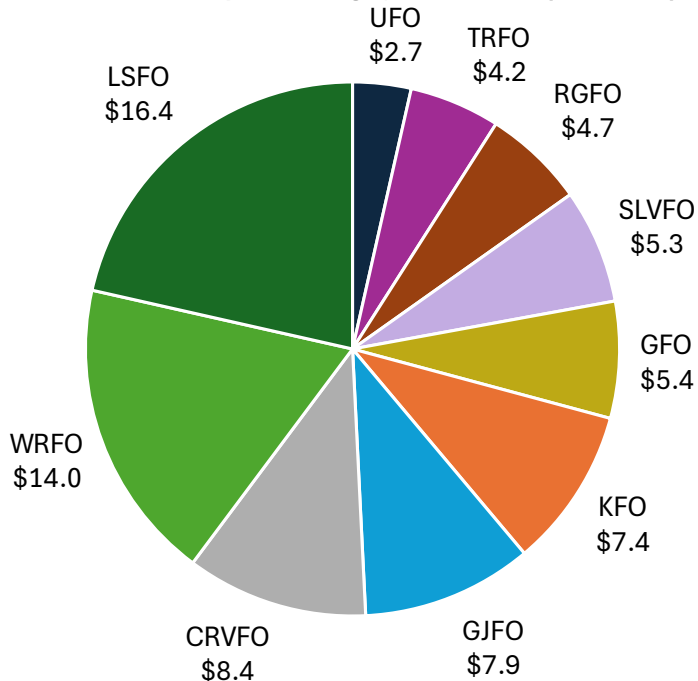
Economic Output-Recreation by Field Office, FY 2023 (\$millions)





## Resource Use by Field Office

Economic Output-Grazing by FO, FY 2023 (\$millions)



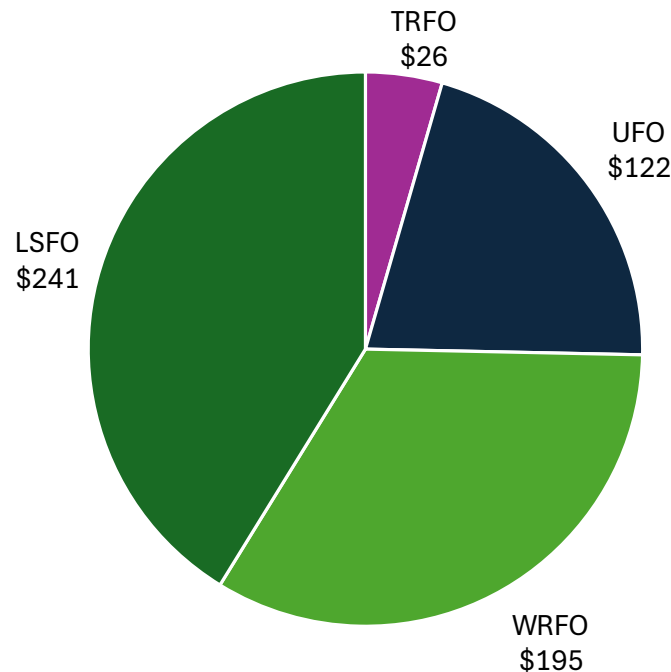
### Grazing

- \$76 million, 930 jobs
- LSFO, WRVFO, & CRVFO contribute \$40 million, 500 jobs
- 7.8 million acres; 2,400 allotments; 1,000 ranching operations

### Coal

- \$584 million, 1,700 jobs
- LSFO, WRFO, UFO, & TRFO
- LSO represents over 40% of the statewide total contributions

Economic Output Coal by FO, FY 2023 (\$millions)

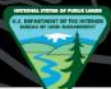




## Economic Output by State (FY 23, \$millions)

State	Recreation	Oil & Gas	Grazing	Coal	Renew.	Timber	Nonenergy	Total
Alaska	48	1,393	0	0	0	1	1	1,703
Arizona	369	0	73	0	169	0	77	931
California	1,603	1,485	53	0	4,032	4	635	8,289
Colorado	1,459	5,691	76	584	0	24	152	8,767
Eastern States	32	901	0	43	0	0	377	1,742
Idaho	418	0	264	0	0	21	394	1,526
Montana/Dakotas	321	7,251	224	731	0	18	5	8,969
Nevada	402	31	222	0	1,684	1	6,209	8,920
New Mexico	351	70,059	240	0	27	1	558	75,311
Oregon/Washington	699	0	163	0	0	1,078	28	2,537
Utah	1,965	5,367	141	443	41	3	82	8,574
Wyoming	212	17,349	239	4,099	116	7	1,774	24,931
<b>Rank (Colorado)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>

\*Table excludes BLM expenditures and payments to states/counties but are included in the total.



# Socioeconomic Values to Consider in NEPA Planning & Analysis

BLM management actions that affect resource conditions and access may, in turn, affect the following socioeconomic values.

Each socioeconomic value may have different meaning to different affected populations, and effects on each socioeconomic value may also differ among demographic groups and user groups through time.



## Economic Vitality

**Economic Activity & Resiliency**

Opportunity for income and employment, including resiliency & stability over time.

## Education & Knowledge

**Learning, Interpretation, & Research**

Learning & knowledge related to access to cultural, historical, & natural resources.

## Public Health & Safety

**Mental, Physical, & Env. Health**

Environmental quality, access to nature, and safety from crime or natural disasters.

## Way of Life & Culture

**Traditional Land Uses & Practices**

Sustaining traditional activities and maintaining heritage and sense of place.

## Passive Use of Ecosystems

**Intrinsic Value of Resources & Ecosystems**

Stewardship values separate from interaction with or use of a resource or ecosystem.



## Access to Products

**Availability & Price of Goods**

Opportunity to consume, use, possess, or purchase products extracted or produced on BLM lands, including meat, plants, minerals, etc. by subsistence, commercial, or other users.

## Public Services

**Quality & Quantity of Services**

Provision of emergency services, public water supply, transportation, education, social services, etc. that may be affected by tax revenues, demand for services, and cost of services.

## Visitor & Viewer Enjoyment

**Recreation & Aesthetics**

Recreation use of BLM lands (or downstream waterways) by visitors & residents. Aesthetic enjoyment of BLM landscapes by users on BLM lands and by others from neighboring locations.

## Social Cohesion

**Community Bonds & Lack of Conflict**

Trust and social relationships, which may be affected by differing resource access by user groups, conflict among user groups or interest groups, or demographic/population change.





# BLM Colorado: Valuing America's Public Lands 2024

STATE TOTALS

**\$ 8.8 billion in economic activity**  
**39,400 jobs**

BLM Colorado manages 8.3 million surface acres and 27.1 million subsurface acres. BLM Colorado public lands generate tens of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in revenue every year for local, state and national economies.

<b>Recreation</b> \$1.5 billion 11,300 jobs	<b>Coal</b> \$583.9 million 1,700 jobs	<b>Oil &amp; Gas</b> \$5.7 billion 19,800 jobs	<b>Timber</b> \$24.2 million 143 jobs
<b>Grazing</b> \$76.3 million 932 jobs	<b>Nonrenewable Minerals</b> \$152.2 million 555 jobs	<b>BLM Expenditures</b> \$511.5 million 2,900 jobs	<b>Payments to State &amp; Counties</b> \$269.5 million 2,200 jobs

DISTRICT TOTALS

<b>Northwest</b> \$ 2.4 billion 9,400 jobs	<b>Rocky Mountain</b> \$ 1.9 billion 8,100 jobs				
\$210.9 million \$16.7 million	\$436 million \$37.8 million	\$1.6 billion \$148.9 million	\$381.6 million \$5.7 million	n/a \$10 million	\$1.5 billion \$2.7 million
<b>Southwest</b> \$ 1.6 billion 8,000 jobs	<b>Upper Colorado River</b> \$ 2.1 billion 8,900 jobs				
\$509.9 million \$1.8 million	\$147.9 million \$12.3 million	\$972.6 million n/a	\$356.2 million \$12,200	n/a \$16.3 million	\$1.7 billion \$661,200

All reported economic outputs reflect estimated total effects, or direct effects and ripple effects throughout the economy. All totals are rounded to the nearest .1

## Check out the new BLM Colorado Economic Contributions [publication](#) and [website](#)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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### BLM Colorado: Valuing America's Public Lands

BLM Colorado manages 8.3 million surface acres and 27.1 million subsurface areas. BLM Colorado public lands generate tens of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in revenue every year for local, state and national economies.

Highlights for these contributions include:

- Economic activity across BLM-managed lands in Colorado generated \$8.8 billion in fiscal year 2023 and supported 39,400 total jobs.
- In FY 23, oil and gas produced from federal lands generated \$5.7 billion, or nearly 65% of the total BLM economic contributions to the state's economy.
- Recreation, another significant contributor to the state's economy, generated \$1.5 billion in economic output and supported 11,300 jobs from BLM-managed lands across Colorado.
- Colorado ranked in the top 5 among the nation's BLM states for economic contributions in FY 23 for recreation (3rd), oil and gas (4th), coal (3rd) and timber (2nd).
- BLM Colorado authorizes livestock grazing on 7.8 million acres in the state, supporting livestock management on about 2,400 separate grazing allotments by more than 1,000 ranching operations.

View a breakdown of BLM Colorado's economic impact by sector, district, and field office below. All statistics are from fiscal year 2023.

BLM Colorado State Totals +

Main navigation: Home, Visit, About, Learn, Services, Get Involved, Programs, Info, States, Contact Us, Fire Restrictions

Quick Links



# Questions?

**Thank You!**

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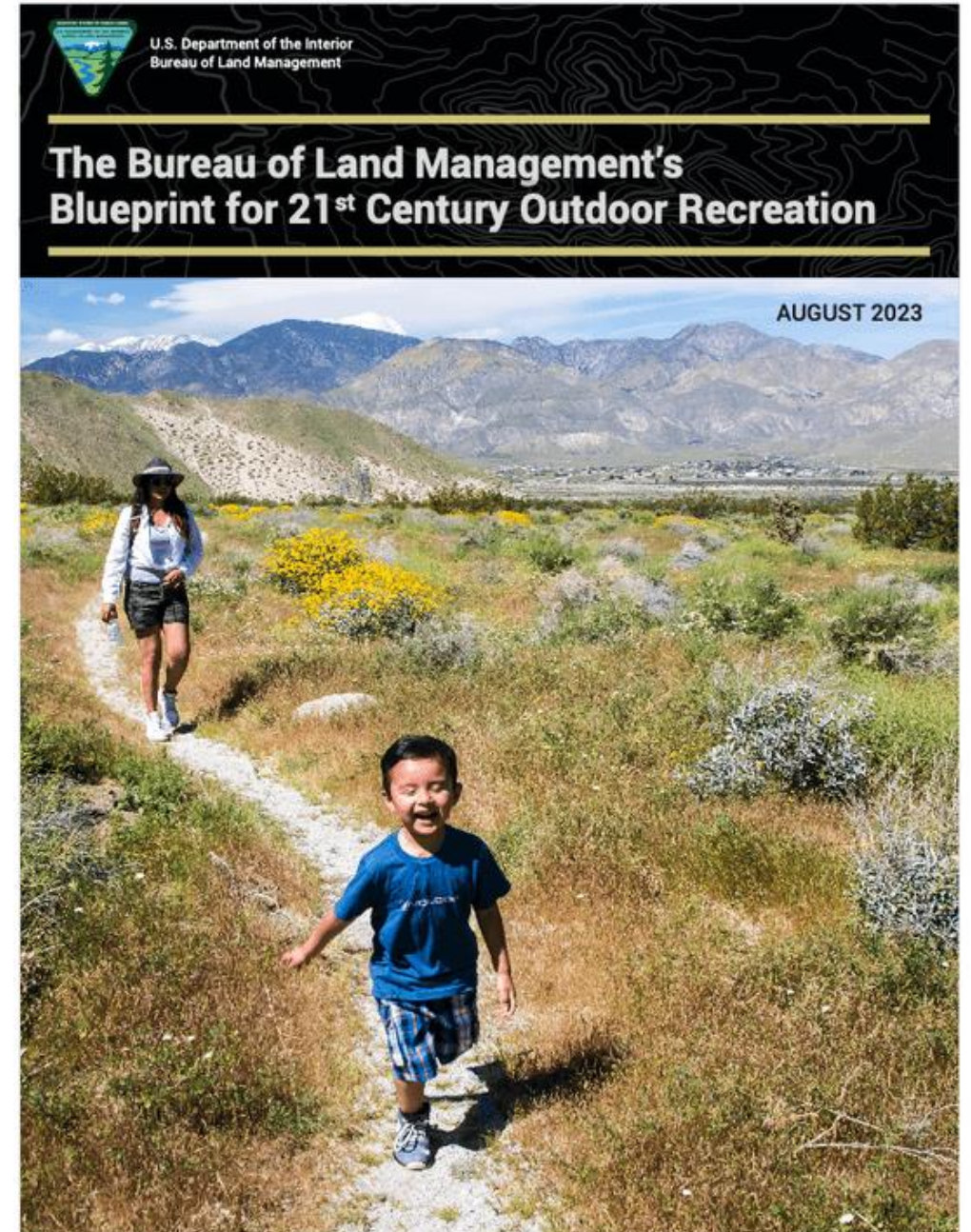


# The Colorado Rivermap Recreation, Stewardship and Safety Across Colorado's Rivers



Local  
Govs

The BLM's Blueprint for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Outdoor Recreation includes four strategic pillars. Each pillar outlines desired outcomes, core strategies, and partner success stories.



## Blueprint Implementation Process



### **BLM Colorado Field Office Recreation Summits**

- Colorado River Valley Field Office, CO – April 15, 2025
- Kremmling Field Office, Kremmling, CO – May 1, 2025
- Royal Gorge Field Office, Florence, CO – May 7, 2025
- Little Snake Field Office, Craig, CO – May 8, 2025
- San Luis Valley Field Office, Monte Vista, CO – June 11, 2025
- White River Field Office, Meeker, CO – July 16, 2025
- Uncompahgre Field Office, Montrose, CO – August 12, 2025
- Gunnison Field Office, Gunnison, CO – September 10, 2025
- Tres Rios Field Office, Dolores, CO - October 8, 2025

# Our Vision

Our vision is for communities across America to engage in the work of repairing and renewing our rivers, streams, and other water bodies on which we all depend.

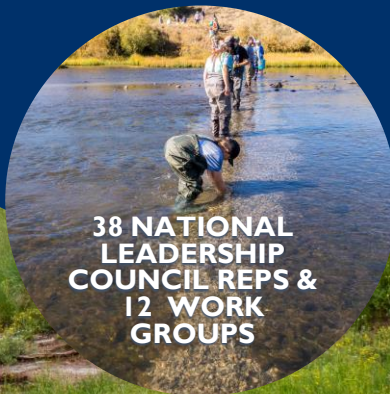
# Our Mission

To bring together diverse interests to care for and recover rivers and streams so that our children can experience the joy of wild and native trout and salmon.



## ONE TU

TROUT  UNLIMITED



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## Mission



As the official charitable partner of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Foundation for America's Public Lands connects us to our public lands and waters and sustains these special places for the benefit of present and future generations.

## Vision



Through public and private collaboration and partnership, we will chart a new path to engage all in ensuring the health and sustainability of our public lands and waters for work, play, and wonder for all.

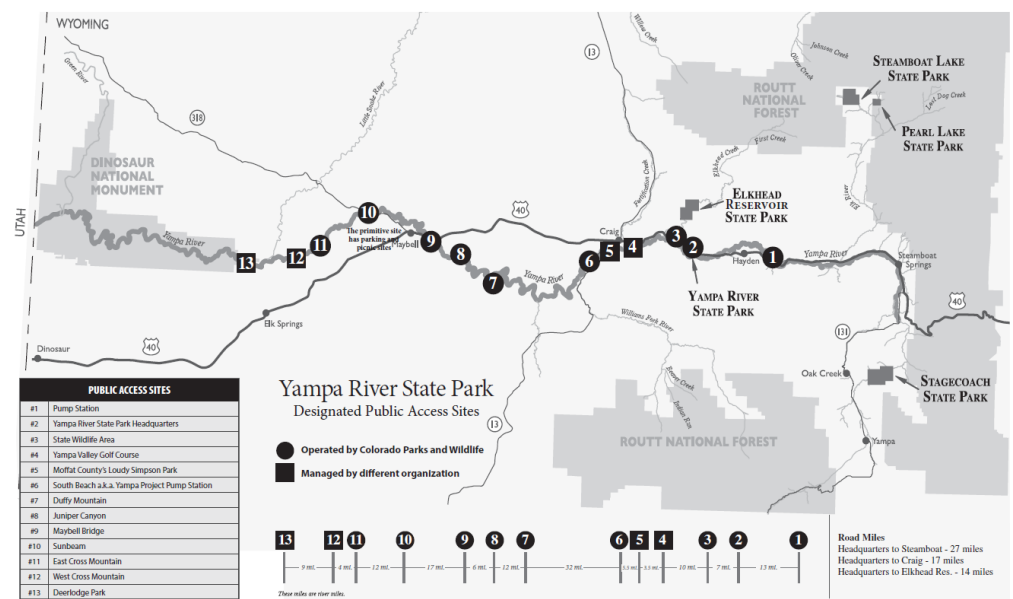
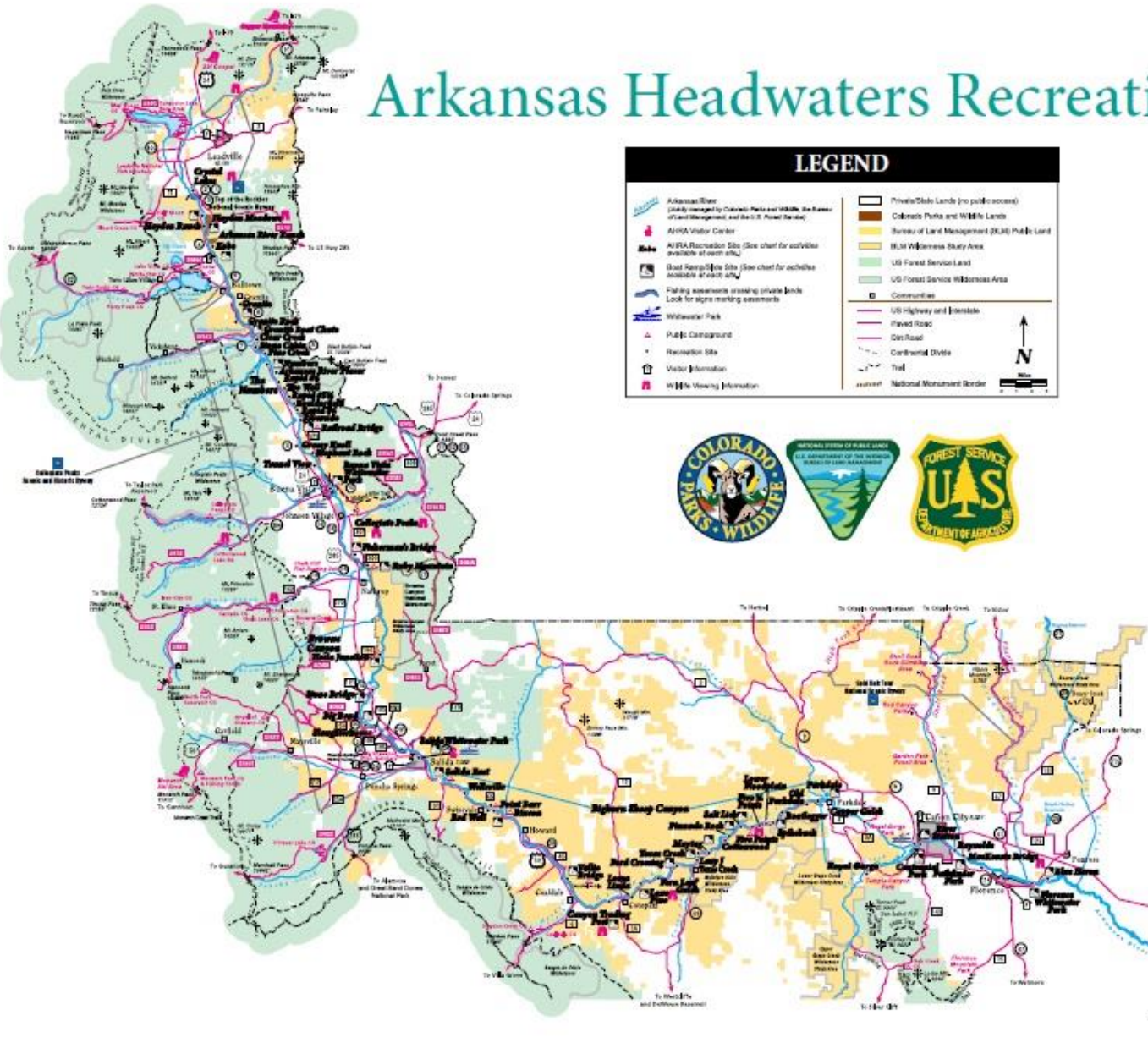


# Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area



### LEGEND

Arkansas River (Jointly managed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Forest Service)	Private/State Lands (no public access)
AHPA Visitor Center	Colorado Parks and Wildlife Lands
AHPA Recreation Site (See chart for activities available at each site)	Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Public Land
State Park Site (See chart for activities available at each site)	BLM Wilderness Study Area
Fishing assessments crossing private lands. Look for signs marking assessments.	US Forest Service Land
Wildwater Park	US Forest Service Wilderness Area
Public Campground	Community
Recreation Site	US Highway and Interstate
Water Information	Paved Road
Wildlife Viewing Information	Dirt Road
	Continental Divide
	Trail
	National Monument Border







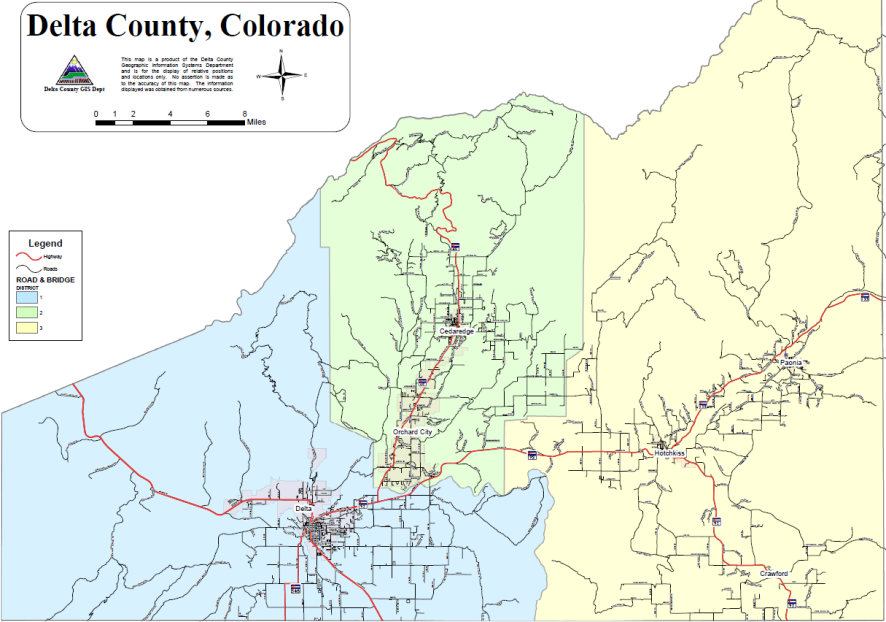
## Our Mission

As a national river conservation nonprofit, our mission is to protect and restore America's whitewater rivers and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely.

## Our Vision

Our vision is that our nation's remaining wild and free-flowing rivers stay that way, our developed rivers are restored to function and flourish, that the public has access to rivers for recreation, and that river enthusiasts are active and effective river advocates.

# Local Governments





## **A Statewide Visioning Process for Colorado's Rivers Will:**

- Guide River Management & Planning Processes
- Energize and Bring Stakeholders Together
- Maximize limited Resources and Secure State and Federal Funding



## Uniting Around Need

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As an example, BLM oversees hundreds of miles of rivers on its 8.3M acres in Colorado, often in partnership with CPW, and recreation on these streams directly supports over \$348M in economic output and 2,700 jobs. However, BLM Colorado receives only 37 cents per rec user to manage outdoor recreation, and neither BLM or CPW has dedicated staff to oversee river recreation at the statewide level.

## Aligning Around Opportunities

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We hope to align – locally and state-wide – around shared river recreation and stewardship priorities. We can pursue funding opportunities from federal and state agencies and private partners to elevate shared recreation and stewardship needs.

# River Recreation



# River Stewardship



# River Safety



# Technical Team

Two local governments

TU and Colorado Trout Unlimited

BLM-Colorado

CPW or Regional Partnership

American Whitewater

Foundation for America's Public Lands

Agriculture/Landowner

Colorado Canyons Association

Great Outdoors Colorado

CWCB or Basin Roundtable



An aerial photograph of a river winding through a desert canyon. The river is a vibrant blue-green color, contrasting with the arid, brownish-tan landscape. The canyon walls are layered with different rock formations, and the sky is a clear, pale blue. The overall scene is one of natural beauty and rugged terrain.

**Upper Colorado River Business Plan**  
**Uncompahgre Field Office Business Plan**  
**Gunnison River Camping Business Plan**  
**Escalante Ranch Acquisition**  
**Gunnison Gorge Camping**  
**Lobatos Bridge Project**  
**Blue Valley Exchange**  
**Shared Stewardship**

**Progress**

Your  
thoughts?





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

# Virtual Fence

## BLM objectives:

- Increase in Flexibilities
- Decrease Wildlife Conflicts
- Avoid other public land Users
- Responsiveness to Changes in Utilization.

## Permittee benefits:

- Respond to herd health (finding sick cattle)
- Behavioral Patterns
- Potential tracking of daily gain
- Breeding success
- Positive influence on business and lives





# Types of Virtual Fence



There are different companies utilizing different technologies;

eShepherd by Gallagher (solar-powered collar, cellular network or tower, computer/phone app); no sheep/goats

Nofence (sollar-powered collars, cellular network, app); includes sheep/goats

Vence by Merck (base station/cell signal/software/computer/phone app); no sheep/goats

Halter (solar-powered collars, towers, phone app); no sheep/goats

Corral (solar-pwered collars, cellular network, computer/phone app); no sheep/goats

University of Idaho project (in development, intends to use less-resource heavy like batteries and cellular services)



# BLM Offices with VF Projects

LSFO: Permittee is self funded. The permittee is exploring sustainable practices, including carbon credits. The permittee is nominated for this year's Colorado Cattlemen's Association's Leopold Conservation Award.

GJFO: Permittee has decided to not continue using it this year due to costs.

UFO: Utilize Vence. One permittee is focused on sustainability, restoration, wildlife, and consumer education through processing locally.

CRVFO: Utilize Vence. One permittee using the technology received the Sagebrush-Steppe Stewardship Award. They are looking for funding sources to expand to using Halter and Nofence.

WRFO: Two test cases using Vence. Cost, Maintenance, functionality, and reliability are issues they are experiencing with the system. Defective collars have been an issue especially when livestock have been turned out to pasture. Retrieval is costly.

GFO and KFO anticipate using Vence when they receive funding. They have partners ready to deploy the technologies.

RGFO: One permittee using Vence for managing rotations.

SLV: Utilizing Vence for managing rotations. They are within allotments that have been appealed. The flexibilities are under review.

TRFO: Utilizing Vence for managing rotations and flexibility.



# Partners In VF Work

Agencies using:

FWS (IRA in KFO which is on pause right now)

NPS (BIL phase 4 with GFO which is on pause right now)

NRCS

USDA FS

Colorado Department of Agriculture

District Grazing Boards (they are funding towers using their portion of 8100 monies and various grants)



# Foundation for America's Public Lands

Funding to Eagle County  
Conservation District:

\$300K up to \$1M

Work on and expand  
existing projects  
(currently paused)

Cooperation with local  
permittees

In coordination with BLM  
Colorado River Valley  
Field Office





# Lessons Learned/Challenges:

Line-of-site can be challenging, some producers are placing towers at waterholes instead

Inconsistent NEPA guidance for towers

Funding can be challenging due to the nature of the servicing agreements for the collars  
(services versus equipment)

Planning for the future is a challenge especially if permits change hands or if permittee reverses decision to use (BLM cannot require a permittee to utilize virtual fence because that is livestock management)

Old and down fences are hazards that aren't consistently removed from the landscape

Neighbor relationships can be jeopardized, especially if boundary fences are not maintained (BLM has minimal influence on this due to fencing laws)

Inconsistent guidance for overall implementation





# Virtual Fence Works:

Must be the right fit for the right situation

Making it economical

Permits need to be flexible

Cost savings on fence maintenance

Increases root structure and soil health

Increases plant diversity and vigor

Can increase stocking rates

Gains in cattle health and weight

Avoid conflicts with other users or wildlife





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

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# Forestry/Fuels

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A photograph of a forest with tall, thin trees and a grassy undergrowth. The trees are mostly evergreens, and the ground is covered in green grass and small plants. The sky is blue and clear.

**Overview of New Executive  
Orders and On-Going Work**



# Executive Order (EO) 14225 Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production

The United States has an abundance of timber resources that are more than adequate to meet our domestic timber production needs.

## Within 30 Days

- Issue new or updated guidance regarding tools to increase production
- Identifies Good Neighbor Authority (GNA), Tribal Forest Protection Act and Stewardship Authority as mechanisms

## Within 60 Days

- Complete a strategy to increase the speed of approving projects under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA)

## Within 90 Days

- Develop a plan to set annual timber targets offered over the next 4 years

## Within 120 Days

- Complete a rangewide programmatic consultation under section 7 of ESA for Whitebark Pine

## Within 180 Days

- Adopt categorical exclusions to reduce National Environmental Policy Act completion timeframes

## Within 280 Days

- Establish a categorical exclusion for thinning and reestablish a categorical exclusion for salvage

- Implement streamlined permitting
- Establishes an Endangered Species Committee to prompt efficient review of all submissions
  - Submit report to the President that identifies obstacles to the domestic timber production infrastructure



# **EO 14223 Addressing the Threat to National Security from Import of Timber, Lumber and their Derivative Products**

**It is the policy of the United States to ensure reliable, secure, and resilient domestic supply chains of timber, lumber, and their derivative products.**

- **The Secretary of Commerce shall investigate the effects on the national security of imports as well as other relevant factors**
  - **Current and projected demand**
  - **The extent to which domestic production can meet demand**
  - **The role of foreign supply chains**
  - **The impact of foreign government subsidies and predatory trade practices**
  - **The feasibility of increased production to reduce imports**
  - **The impact of current trade policies and whether additional measures are needed to protect national security**

## **Within 270 Days**

- **Consult with the Secretary of Defense and relevant agencies to submit a report to the President that includes:**
  - **Finding on whether imports threaten national security**
  - **Recommendations to mitigate any threats**
  - **Policy recommendations to strengthen the domestic supply chain**



# Executive Order and BLM Actions

- BLM headquarters (HQ) is taking the lead on coordinating the President's EOs and will create an action plan
- HQ issued memo on March 31, 2025
  - Volume projections for next three years
  - Use of good neighbor authority
  - Use of Categorical Exclusions to streamline NEPA
  - Identify potential land use plan updates
- Data calls for annual timber volumes, staffing needs, funding needs, forest industry capacity and for any barriers or bottlenecks that are expected





# BLM Colorado Forestry Program

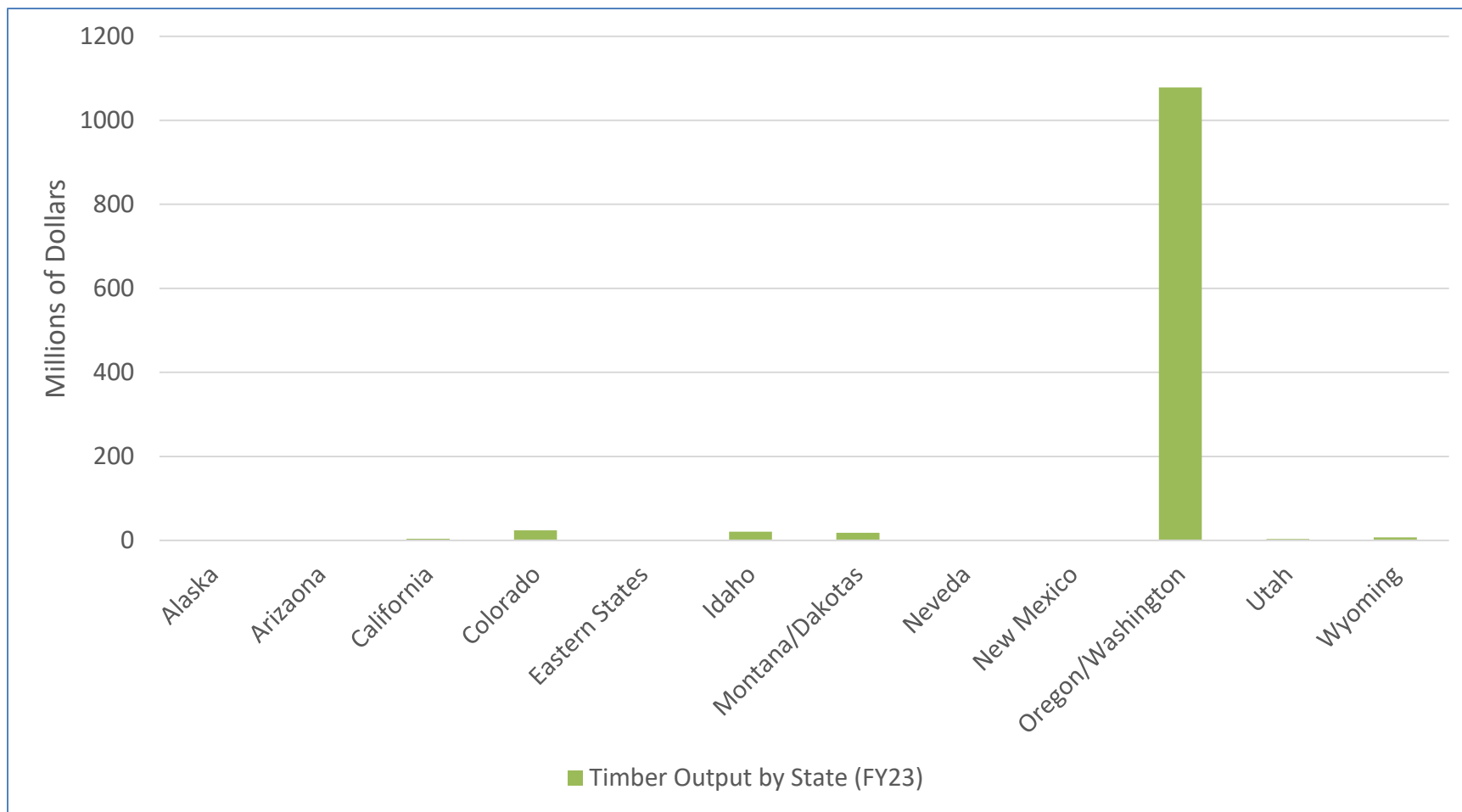
## Timber

- Average Annual Timber Volume Offered for the last 5 years 5,038 MBF
- Average Annual Biomass Offered for the last 5 years 8,007 Green Tons
- Estimated Annual Timber Volume Offered with fewer barriers 9,000+ MBF
- Estimated Annual Biomass Offered with fewer barriers 20,000+ Green Tons
- FY23 BLM CO Volume Offer was second in the country for BLM. Only O&C which has a mandate to harvest was higher





# Timber Economic Output by State (FY23)





# BLM Colorado Forestry Program

## Staffing

- Forester Positions Filled
  - Gunnison Field Office
  - Royal Gorge Field Office
- Forester Positions Vacant
  - Kremmling Field Office
  - NWD GNA Zoned
- Potential Forestry Positions that would support the EO
  - Tres Rios Field Office – Forester
  - San Luis Valley Field Office – Forester or Fuels Tech
  - Royal Gorge Field Office – Fulltime Forestry Tech







# BLM Colorado Forestry Program



## Partnerships/Agreements

- Statewide Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) with CSFS
  - Forestry and fuels work across the state
- San Luis Valley Field Office GNA with CSFS
  - Forestry and fuels work across the FO
- Statewide Stewardship with Mule Deer Foundation
  - Forestry, fuels and wildlife habitat restoration work across the state
- Statewide Cooperative Agreement with National Forest Foundation
  - Forestry and fuels work across the state
  - Tethered logging project



# BLM Colorado Forestry Program

## Challenges

- Funding
- NEPA Bottleneck (e.g., lack of programmatic NEPA)
- Staff Shortages
- Forest Product Industry Capacity





# BLM Colorado Fuels Program

- Entire FY25 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)/Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Fuels program of work reduces hazardous fuels in wildland urban interface (WUI) or areas impacting drinking water and in the highest risk areas
- 73% of these projects have a forestry or forest management component
  - 50,000 acres surveyed
  - 9,200 acres treatment
  - 50,000 acres monitoring
- 8 of these projects (1,400 treatment acres) are being completed through a Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) agreement with Colorado State Forest Service

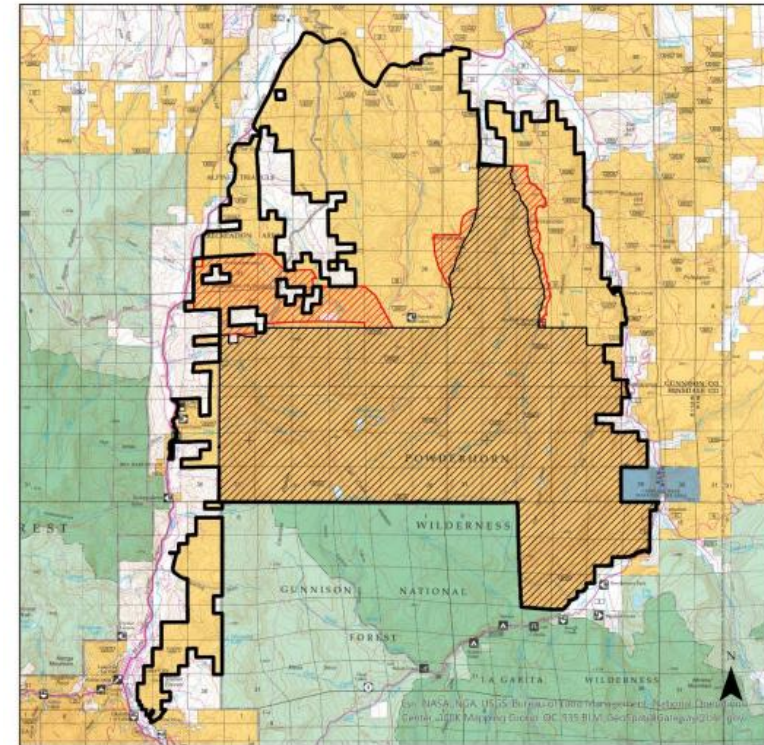
## Partnerships/Agreements

- Many of the same as the Forestry Program



# BLM Colorado Fuels Program Project Highlight: North Powderhorn Fuels Project

- This project includes a comprehensive vegetation management program to improve forest health and resiliency and promote ecosystem diversity across the North Powderhorn project area northeast of Lake City, CO.
- A range of vegetation types and treatments on approximately 20,000 acres over the next 15 years within and adjacent to the Powderhorn Wilderness and Powderhorn Wilderness Study Area (WSA).
- The Decision Record for the Environmental Assessment was signed on July 10, 2024.
- Thinning and monitoring work are continuing in 2025 with the intent to introduce prescribed fire as conditions allow.



- North Powderhorn Project Area
  - North Powderhorn Wilderness
  - Powderhorn Wilderness Study Area
- Land Manager
- Bureau of Land Management
  - State, County, City: Areas
  - Private
  - US Forest Service





# BLM Colorado Fuels Program Project Highlight: North Powderhorn Fuels Project



Figure H-1. Image showing western end of Powderhorn Lake. (July 24, 2011)



Figure H-2. From same angle as H-1 showing large number of standing dead trees following ten-year period of beetle infestation. (August 9, 2022)

Proposed treatments, whether in Wilderness/WSA or non-wilderness, will be designed to achieve the following:

- Produce moderate to high intensity burns, resulting in moderate to high severity impacts in mixed conifer stands and spruce bark beetle mortality
- Mimic small-scale disturbance on the landscape in order to return forested areas to an earlier successional development stage
- Promote fine-scale heterogeneity across the project area
- Improve forested areas resiliency
- Stimulate understory shrubs, grasses, and forbs
- Stimulate conifer and aspen regeneration
- Aid in future wildland fire management
- Enhance Wilderness Values



# BLM Colorado Fuels Program Project Highlight: North Powderhorn Fuels Project

This project has been the culmination of years of surveys, research, coordination, community outreach, and careful planning.

Partners include: Western Colorado University, Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service





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

# Energy, Lands & Minerals





# Summary

The BLM Colorado State Office's Division of Energy, Land, and Minerals consists of three primary branches: Fluid Minerals, Solid Minerals, and Lands, Realty, and Renewable Energy. Each branch plays a crucial role in managing energy resources and real estate for sustainable development.





## Branch of Fluid Minerals

### General Responsibilities

- Leadership and coordination of fluid energy and mineral policies.

### Key Functions:

- Lease stipulations and status
- Bonding and production notices
- Reservoir management
- Geothermal leasing oversight
- Coordination with State and Local Entities



## Branch of Solid Minerals

### General Responsibilities

- Leadership and policy direction for solid energy and minerals, encompassing leasable, locatable, and saleable resources.

### Key Functions:

- Lease stipulations and modifications
- Bond management
- Coordination of coal and non-energy leasable resources



## Branch of Lands, Realty, & Renewable Energy

### General Responsibilities

- Leadership in realty and renewable energy permitting actions.

### Key Functions:

- Realty management and land title records
- Land use permitting (e.g., rights-of-way, easements)
- Withdrawals
- Land tenure adjustments (e.g., acquisition, disposal, exchange)



## BLM Colorado Oil and Gas Statistics

- Total Leases: 2,833
- Acres leased: 2,062,524 Acres
- Producing leases: 2,155
- Acres held by production: 1,465,269
- Number of producing oil and gas wells: 14,244
- Applications for Permit to Drill approved in FY 2024: 236
- Idle Wells: 845
- Orphan Wells: 51



## Oil and Gas Lease Sales

- September 2025  
Draft NEPA is currently out for comments due by 4 pm on April 13, 2025;  
comments must be submitted on ePlanning to be considered
- December 2025  
Reviewing Scoping Comments.
- March 2026  
Scoping is scheduled for late Spring



## Solid Minerals

### **MINERAL MATERIALS PROGRAM – 1330**

- a. Management of 59 operations pending or authorized under contracts
- b. Management of 61 operations pending or authorized under free use permits
- c. Management of 17 community pits
- d. Management of 26 common use areas

### **COAL & NON-ENERGY LEASABLE PROGRAMS – 1320, 1330**

Management of 47 coal, 8 Non-Energy Leasable (NEL) and 1 Oil Shale lease(s)

### **MINING LAW PROGRAM – 1990**

- a. Management of ~74 mining plan of operations and notices
- b. Management of 15,131 active unpatented mining claims
- c. Process an average of 3,000 new claims submitted annually
- d. Process an average of 2,500 claim closures annually

### **ABANDONED MINE LANDS & HAZMAT PROGRAMS – 1644**

- a. Management of >3,600 AML closures and related sites
- b. Management of 46 CERCLA actions
- c. Management of ~61 RCRA cleanups annually
- d. Management of 20 facilities for RCRA compliance



## Lands, Realty, & Renewable Energy

### **TransWest Express Transmission Line (WRFO, LSFO):**

**Length:** 730 miles

**States:** WY, CO, UT, NV

**Status:** Under construction, expected to be energized in 2029

### **Energy Gateway South Transmission Line (WRFO, LSFO):**

**Length:** 400+ miles

**States:** WY, CO, UT

**Status:** Construction completed; energizing expected in November 2024

### **Rebuild of SLVFO and RGFO Xcel Transmission Lines:**

SLVFO authorized rebuild amendment for Xcel 9811 in July 2024;

construction completed by March 2025

COSO processing amendments for Xcel lines 9255, 9254, 9257 in RGFO

COSO developing statewide O&M/Veg Management plan for Xcel Energy's infrastructure

**Goal:** Supports SD priority of reducing wildfire risk



## Lands, Realty, & Renewable Energy

### Solar Energy Development

#### •De Tilla Gulch Solar Energy Zone (SLVFO):

- Lease withdrawn in December 2024
- Status: No active solar industry interest in San Luis Valley FO

#### •21 Road Solar (GJFO):

- Preliminary stages of processing two applications for development near Grand Junction

#### •UFO Solar Interest:

- Receiving preliminary inquiries for potential development along Highway 50 corridor
- **Status:** No official applications submitted yet





## Lands, Realty, & Renewable Energy

### Current Colorado Withdrawal Projects

#### •Durita Withdrawal

- Field Office: UFO
- Applicant: DOE
- Acres: 70

#### •Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge

- Field Office: KFO
- Applicant: FWS
- Acres: 4,792.54

#### •Fort Carson Military Withdrawal extension

- Field Office: RGFO
- Applicant: DOD
- Acres: 147,204

#### •Whitewater Revocation

- Field Office: UFO, GJFO (Dominguez-Escalante NCA)
- Applicant: BOR
- Acres: 28,190



## Lands, Realty, & Renewable Energy

### Major pending land tenure adjustments

- **Escalante Ranch: acquisition; Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area.**
  - Field Office: UFO, GJFO
  - Acres: 4,012
- **La Jara: acquisition (BLM, Forest Service, and State of Colorado)**
  - Field Office: SLVFO
  - Acres: 21,704
- **Alpine Triangle: acquisition (BLM, Forest Service)**
  - Field Office: RGFO
  - Acres: 132
- **Challenger Ranch: acquisition**
  - Field Office: RGFO
  - Acres: 320
- **Clifton parcel: disposal (direct sale)**
  - Field Office: GJFO
  - Acres: 31.1
- **Browns Park School: disposal (direct sale)**
  - Field Office: LSFO
  - Acres: 2.13
- **Yeager: disposal (direct sale)**
  - Field Office: RGFO
  - Acres: 0.89
- **Buffalo Horn: exchange**
  - Field Office: WRFO
  - Acres: 1,327.06
- **State Indemnity Selection: disposal (transfer to State of Colorado to meet obligations under statehood act); statewide**
  - Acres: 1,931.82



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

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# Thank you!

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