



The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for the stewardship of our public lands. It is committed to manage, protect, and improve these lands in a manner to serve the needs of the American people for all times.

BLM

Management is based upon the principles of multiple use and sustained yield of our nation's resources within a framework of environmental responsibility and scientific technology. These resources include recreation, rangelands, timber, minerals, watershed, fish and wildlife, wilderness, air and scenic, scientific and cultural values.

# **Table of Contents**

#### **OVERVIEW**

Introduction	
Nevada's Public Land Resources	2
Federally Administered Lands in Nevada	4
Public Lands in Nevada by County	
Fiscal Management	
Fiscal Overview	
Receipts	
Direct Cost Expenditures	
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	
Payments Made to the State of Nevada	

#### LANDS AND RENEWABLE RESOURCES

BLM Land Use Plans Map	
Resource Management Planning	
and Environmental Coordination	
Lands and Realty Management	
Cultural Resources Management	
Wilderness	
Public Domain Forestry	
Recreation and Visual Resource Management	
BLM Nevada Recreation Sites	
Wildlife Habitat Management	
Rangeland Improvements	
Grazing Management	
Wild Horse and Burro Management	
Soil, Water and Air Resource Management	
Fire Rehabilitation	

#### MINERAL RESOURCES

Minerals Management	
Locatables	
Salables	
Solid Leasables	
Oil and Gas	
Geothermal Energy	

#### **OPERATIONS**

40
44

#### ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION

BLM Employment	
Equal Employment Opportunity	
Nevada BLM Organization	
District Offices	

# Index to Photos

PAGE	SUBJECT SOURCE	PAGE	SUBJECT SOURCE
Front Cover	Sheep camp, Black Rock Desert Bob Stewart	P. 26	Burro, Red Rock
Inside Front Cover	Volunteers, Baker Dig Mark Barber	P. 27	Flood runoff near Devil's Hole Doug Soleida
	Great Reno Balloon Races Bob Goodman	P. 28	Acid rain monitoring station,
	Range fence, Ruby Mtns Doug Soleida		Red Rock
Frontis	Agave, Red Rock Maxine Shane	P. 29	Fish Creek burn Doug Soleida
Overview	Cattle, Beowawe Doug Soleida	P. 30	Hauling ore, Carlin TrendDoug Soleida
Page 1	Nevada State Director,	P. 31	Trucks, Carlin TrendDoug Soleida
	Bill TempletonBLM file photo	P. 32	Milling ore, Carlin Trend Doug Soleida
P. 2	Artist, Red Rock Doug Soleida	Pp. 33,4	Sand and gravel operation,
	Hauling ore, Carlin TrendDoug Soleida		Las VegasDoug Soleida
	Miner's cabin, Independence Mtns Doug Soleida	P. 35	Pumping oil, Railroad ValleyDoug Soleida
P. 3	Archaeological work, Baker DigMark Barber	P. 36	Tank facilities, Railroad ValleyDoug Soleida
	Oil rig, Railroad Valley Doug Soleida		Apache's Grant Canyon Well No. 3,
P. 4	Store front, Rhyolite Doug Soleida		Railroad Valley Doug Soleida
	Rabbitbrush, New Pass SummitDoug Soleida	P. 37	Beowawe geothermal plant Doug Soleida
	Storage tanks at mine, Carlin Trend Doug Soleida	P. 39	Hazardous materials inspection BLM file photo
P. 10	Sand Mountain	P. 40	Range fireGreg Zschaechner
P. 11	South of Dixie Valley Doug Soleida	P. 41	Great Basin Live Fuel
P. 12	Fairview Peak from		Moisture Project Lori Spence
	Sand Springs RangeDoug Soleida	P. 42	Global Positioning System trainingSteve Parrish
P. 13	Elk near Ely Doug Soleida	P. 43	Handling hazardous materialsBLM file photo
P. 14	Picnic area, Goshute CanyonDoug Soleida		Hazardous materials siteBLM file photo
	High school (R&PP), Las Vegas Doug Soleida	P. 44	Orange Bridge, Marys RiverDoug Mary
P. 15	Mount Irish archaeological siteBill Fawcett	P. 45	Volunteers at Baker DigMark Barber
P. 16	Hickison petroglyphsDoug Soleida	P. 47	NSO receptionist Doug Soleida
P. 17	Backpackers, Schell Creek RangeJake Rajala	P. 48	Examining forage Doug Soleida
P. 18	Pinyons, Connors Summit Doug Soleida		Inspecting rock art Doug Soleida
P. 19	Sportsman's Beach, Walker Lake Doug Soleida	A CONTRACTOR OF A CONTRACTOR A	Changing a flatDoug Soleida
P. 21	Installation of wildlife guzzlerJake Rajala		Inspecting drilling operation Doug Soleida
P. 22	Windmill, NyalaDoug Soleida	P. 49	EEO information Doug Soleida
P. 23	Cattle, Beowawe Doug Soleida		Consulting with employee Doug Soleida
	Calf resting, Fish CreekDoug Soleida	Inside Back Cover	Pipelines at gold mineDoug Soleida
P. 25	Handling wild horsesBLM file photo	Back Cover	Bank Building, Rhyolite Doug Soleida



The Bureau of Land Management in Nevada saw a variety of land management challenges during fiscal year 1991. Our progress is the subject of this report. Highlights for the year include:

**Drought.** Continuing drought in the West had a measured impact on Nevada's rangeland resources. The depletion of water supply on grazing allotments was accompanied by an overall reduction in the state's water supply and reduced production of vegetation. BLM continues to monitor the drought's impact on range resources, and is working with livestock operators to make the best of a bad situation.

Wild horses and burros. The 20th anniversary of the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act brought notable successes and continued learning. Nevada BLM saw increased public recognition of the agency's role in wild horse management. The Great Reno Balloon Races brought BLM co-sponsorship of a hot-air balloon, and support for the wild horse adoption program by author and wild horse adopter Michael ("Dances With Wolves") Blake. Adopted horses performed with distinction in competitions such as the North American Open Championship 100-mile Endurance Race in Carson City and the World Championship Reined Cow Horse Futurity in Reno. BLM dedicated the Marietta Wild Burro Range in central Nevada to help assure continued protection of an extensive burro population in that locale. The agency also conducted several emergency wild horse adoptions to help save animals decimated by drought conditions on the Nellis Range. BLM law enforcement agents investigated wild horse shootings near Wendover, Currie, and Red Rock. The agency is taking a closer look at current policies governing the management of free-roaming animals on the range and the placement of excess

# Introduction

animals, and will issue a strategic plan for wild horse and burro management in 1992. **Cultural resources.** Nevada BLM's cultural resources initiative, "Adventures in the Past: A Great Basin Tribute," focused public attention on 2,000



year-old tule reed duck decoys found near Lovelock in 1924. They were returned to Nevada from the Smithsonian Institution for the tribute. Excavations of the Fremont culture continued at the Baker Site near Ely. BLM personnel sought clues on early Nevada charcoal makers near Eureka, and provided hands-on archaeological experience for volunteers at Hickison Petroglyph Recreation Area near Austin. Mining. A computerized imaging system came on line which, when complete, will expedite public access to more than 425,000 active mining claims on file with the Nevada State Office. The agency established a policy on mining claim posts to prevent accidental losses of birds and wildlife in uncapped posts. BLM proposed new bonding requirements that would require financial gurantees to ensure reclamation on all mining operations greater than casual use. The agency also proposed measures that would simplify regulations governing coal mining operations.

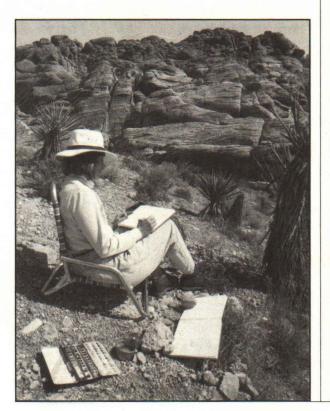
Recreation. New recreation resources were added at opposite corners of the state: the California Trail Back Country Byway was dedicated in the Elko District, and the Red Rock Canvon National Conservation Area was dedicated in Las Vegas District. Environment. Nevada BLM received special recognition for riparian area improvements from the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society. A final environmental impact statement was issued by BLM on vegetation treatment measures proposed for use on public lands in 13 western states, including Nevada, BLM published "Riparian-Wetland Initiative for the 1990s" which sets a series of goals and strategies to meet healthy conditions on the 23.7 million acres of riparian-wetlands managed by the agency. BLM Director Cy Jamison presented the Riparian Stewardship Award to Barrick Goldstrike Mine of Elko for the organization's assistance with a Lahontan Cutthroat Trout habitat restoration project.

A syour Bureau of Land Management in Nevada works to anticipate and prepare for the land management issues of the 21st century, we look forward to serving you through another year of challenge and progress.

# Nevada's Public Land Resources

The public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Nevada range from the Sierra foothills in the west, across great open spaces, to piñon-juniper woodlands in the east. They include mountainous desert country which is the home of desert bighorn sheep, the official Nevada state animal. Scenic wonders are found throughout the state, from Red Rock Canyon in the south to Blue Lakes in the north, and in a wide variety of other areas, many of them wilderness-like.

BLM administers land used for mining and livestock grazing which are among the state's primary economic industries. Nevada's public lands offer



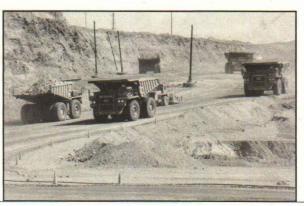
geologic wonders, great open spaces, recreation and wilderness--values which are enjoyed by many. The agency has a responsibility to chronicle and to preserve Nevada's natural and cultural heritage for future generations.

The delicate balance among these often competing land uses is BLM's responsibility. Following the principles of multiple-use and sustained yield, with public guidance, the agency administers the public lands.

Public lands in Nevada produce more gold and silver than any other state. Most of Nevada's production comes from public land administered under the Mining Law of 1872.

The total area of all types of forestland administered by the Nevada BLM is greater than 6 million acres.

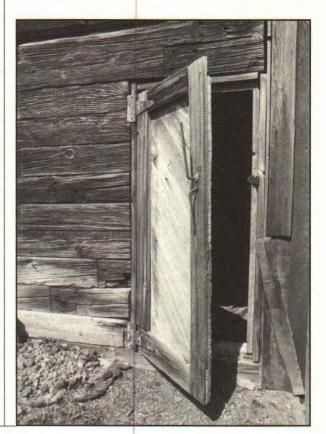
More than 5 million acres of Nevada's most scenic and remote lands are under study for wilderness potential. Approximately 1.9 million acres have been recommended for wilderness designation; 3.2 million acres have been recommended for uses



other than wilderness. All of these lands are being managed to retain their identified wilderness characteristics until such time as Congress decides on final wilderness designation.

The geothermal resources on public lands in Nevada now produce 133 gross megawatts of electric power from seven power plants. In the next few years as many as 60 megawatts will be added.

On Nevada public lands there are 15 historic and prehistoric sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places. More than 100 additional sites are

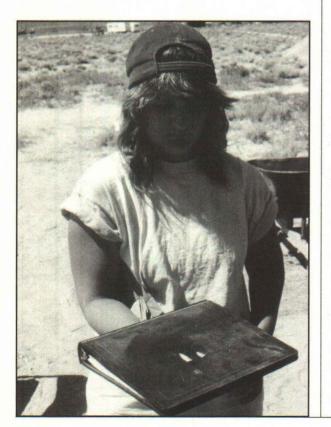


eligible or potentially eligible for inclusion.

There are more than 3,300 townships in Nevada. Rectangular surveys have been completed on 73 percent of the state.

A total of 606 livestock operators are authorized grazing on 811 allotments over some 45 million acres of Nevada's public lands.

More than three million barrels of oil are produced annually on public lands in Nevada. This includes one of the most prolific oil wells in the United States in the Grant Canyon oil field which produces in excess of 3,000 barrels a day.



There are 20 species of threatened or endangered wildlife on the state's public lands.

Nearly 1,000 volunteers contributed time, talent, materials and supplies for public land improvement projects. Recreation, wildlife and archaeological-historical activities are the most popular pursuits.

With a force of more than 200 firefighters, 50 fire engines and six fire-fighting aircraft, the Nevada BLM responds to more than 600 wildfires each year.

S even areas, totaling 24,093 acres, are given special management attention through designation as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

Off-highway vehicle enthusiasts, hikers, campers, hunters, fishermen, boaters, winter sports enthusiasts and other recreationists spend nearly 24 million visitor hours annually on public lands in Nevada.

There have been more than 632,000 mining claims located on Nevada's public lands. Approximately 425,000 claims remain active.

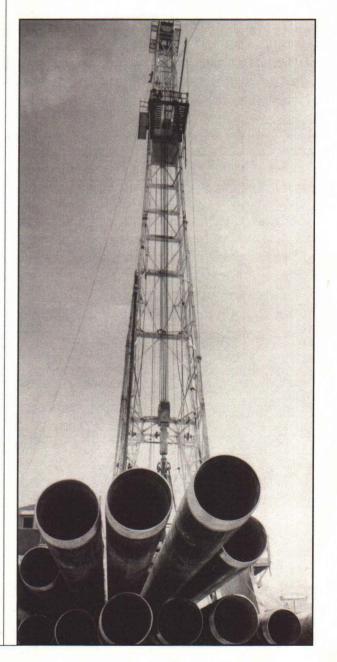
Through the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, the state, various counties and non-profit organizations gain lands for such uses as parks, shooting ranges and schools.

Wildlife habitat managed by BLM provides home for most of Nevada's mule deer, antelope, elk and bighorn sheep. Each year the agency develops and maintains projects which benefit wildlife.

Nevada public lands produce annually more than 30,000 Christmas trees and 8,000 cords of firewood.

The majority of wild horses and burros which in-

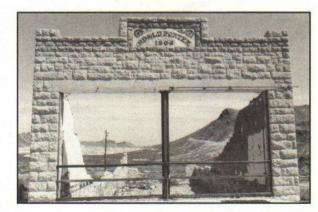
habit the public lands in the United States are within the confines of the State of Nevada.



# Federally Administered Lands in Nevada

The gross area of the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii, is some 2.3 billion acres. The federal government has, at various times in U.S. history, held title to about four-fifths of that area. Today, federal, civil and defense agencies administer 688 million acres, or 30 percent, of the total area of the United States.

Currently, Alaska and Nevada have the highest percentage of federally administered lands. These lands are used for a variety of purposes. In Nevada, these include military use, national forests, wildlife refuges, a national park and national monument, and public lands, the latter administered primarily for multiple uses. According to latest figures provided by the General Services Administration, there are 57,803,208 acres owned by the federal government



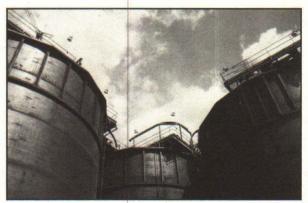
in Nevada and 12,461,112 acres not owned by the federal government. Those lands owned and administered by government agencies make up approximately 82 percent of the State of Nevada.

The major administrator of lands in Nevada is the Department of the Interior. The Bureau of Land Management oversees 47,998,825 acres.



O ther major land managers within the Department include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service. In the Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Forest Service is the major land owner in Nevada. Within the Department of Defense, the Air Force, Army and Navy all have major land withdrawals for training and testing in Nevada. The Department of Energy (Energy Research and Development Administration) conducts testing in the southern part of the state.

Specific acreage administered for most agencies within Nevada will be available through BLM's Automated Land and Mineral Record System in late 1992 or early 1993.



# Public Lands in Nevada by County\*

County	Public Lands Managed by BLM**	Total Acreage in County	Percentage of Total Acres Managed by BLM
Carson City			
	6,809,432		
Nye	6,478,951		
Pershing			75
White Pine			
TOTALS		70,745,600	

\* As of Sept. 30, 1991

\*\* Acreage shown is the same as that used for calculating Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) figures for fiscal year 1991 (FY 91), and is as accurate as possible using the technology and base figures available to BLM. Changes include national legislated changes, exchanges, patents, sales, etc.

## **Fiscal Management**

L ike any other large management operation, Nevada BLM is responsible for collecting and paying out sizeable amounts of money. The agency collects money from many sources utilizing the public lands and deposits these monies in the U.S Treasury. It also pays out money appropriated by Congress for managing the lands and handles special types of payments involving these lands. One special payment, authorized by various federal

laws, is to the State of Nevada for its share of certain receipts collected by either BLM or the Minerals Management Service (MMS). The state receives 50 percent of all mineral leasing revenues, 12-1/2 to 50 percent of grazing revenues (the percentage depends upon the category of lands being grazed), and four percent of all revenues from sale of lands and materials. The second special payment, authorized by a 1976 federal law, is made directly to Nevada's counties in lieu of property taxes. The purpose of these payments is to compensate counties for the burden resulting from the tax immunity of the public lands. This "in lieu" payment is based upon a complex formula which takes into account the amount of certain federal lands within county borders, county population, and certain federal payments made to that county.

# Fiscal Overview FY 91

Total public land receipts collected by BLM ...... \$21,262,503

Total mineral receipts collected by MMS .....\$19,767,870

Total funds paid out by BLM from the U.S. Treasury relating to public land management in Nevada:

line													
2000													
2121													
KOX I													

# Receipts

Mineral Leases and Permits	
Oil and Gas Pipeline Right-of-Way Rental	\$16,47
Sale of Land and Materials	
Sale of Timber	
Grazing	
Section 3*	
Section 15**	
Fees and Commissions	
Rights-of-Way	
Rent of Land	
Other Sources	
TOTAL	\$21,262,50
<ul> <li>Section 15 refers to grazing outside established grazing distri sipts Source - Minerals Management Service</li> </ul>	icts.
ipts Source - Minerals Management Service Royalties	
ipts Source - Minerals Management Service Royalties Oil	\$8,090,16
ipts Source - Minerals Management Service Royalties Oil Gas	\$8,090,16 
ipts Source - Minerals Management Service Royalties Oil Gas	\$8,090,16 
ipts Source - Minerals Management Service Royalties Oil	\$8,090,16 26 
ipts Source - Minerals Management Service Royalties Oil Gas Geothermal Steam Sand and Gravel Geothermal Hot Water	\$8,090,16 26 
ipts Source - Minerals Management Service Royalties Oil Gas	\$8,090,16 26 1,744,99 516,65 154,19
ipts Source - Minerals Management Service Royalties Oil Gas Geothermal Steam Sand and Gravel Geothermal Hot Water	\$8,090,16 26 1,744,99 516,65 154,19 408,08
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ipts Source - Minerals Management Service Royalties Oil	\$8,090,16 26 1,744,99 516,65 154,19 
ipts Source - Minerals Management Service Royalties Oil	\$8,090,16 26 1,744,99 516,65 154,19 408,08 7,757,56 

# **Direct Cost Expenditures**

BLM APPROPRIATED FUNDS	
Construction and Maintenance	
Range, Wildlife Habitat, Soil and Water Improvements	\$2,411,000
Maintenance of Range, Wildlife Habitat, Soil and Water Improvements	
Road and Easement Construction	
Maintenance of Roads and Facilities	
Natural Resource Protection	
Fire Presuppression	
Fire Suppression	
Emergency Rehabilitation	
Management	
Lands and Realty	
Energy and Minerals	
Oil and Gas	
Geothermal	
Non-Energy Minerals	
Forest Management	
Grazing Management	
Cultural Management	
Wilderness Management	
Recreation	
Soil, Water and Air Management	
Wildlife Habitat Management	
Wild Horse and Burro Management	
Fire Management	
Multiple-Use Planning	
Information Services Operations and Maintenance	
Resource Data Acquisition Management	
Automated Land and Mineral Record System	
Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Control	
Engineering Services	
Cadastral Survey	
Resource Protection (Law Enforcement)	
Hazardous Materials Management	
Equal Employment Opportunity	
Administrative Services	
Aviation Management	
TOTAL BLM APPROPRIATED FUND EXPENDITURES	
OTHER: CONTRIBUTIONS, REIMBURSABLES, AND COLLECTIONS*	

\* Contributions include money and labor donated to BLM, e.g., for range improvement projects, course layout for competitive recreational events, etc. Reimbursables include work done for other agencies, e.g., survey projects. Collections include money collected for copy fees, etc.

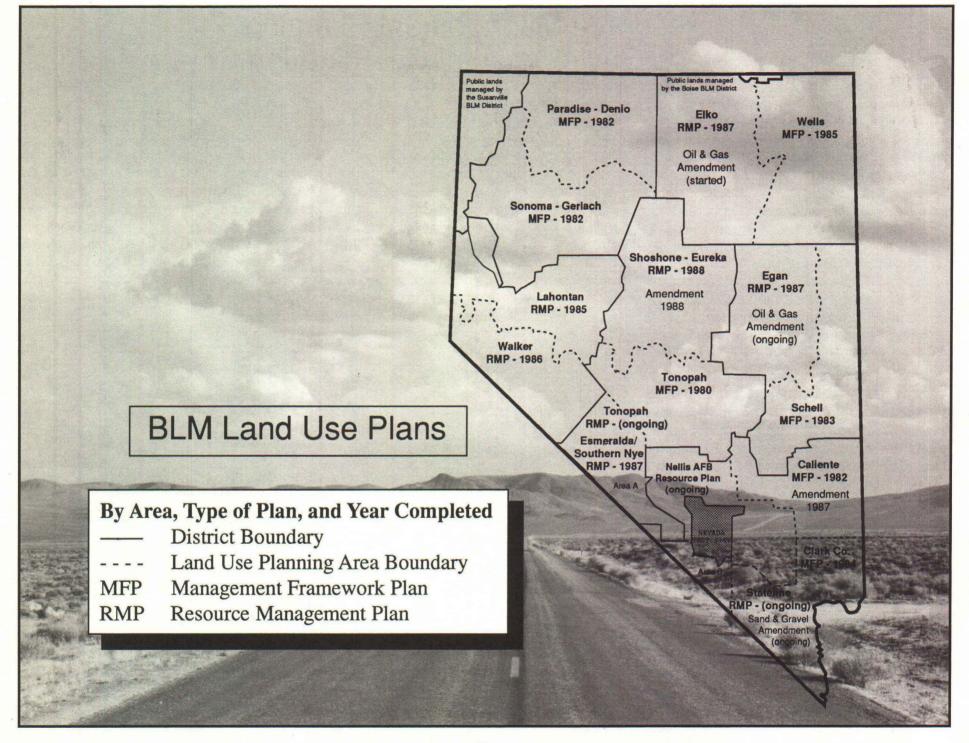
# Payments in Lieu of Taxes

County	Payment
Carson City	\$32,033
Churchill	
Clark	
Douglas	
Elko	
Esmeralda	
Eureka	
Humboldt	
Lander	
Lincoln	
Lyon	
Mineral	
Nye	
Pershing	
Storey	
Washoe	
White Pine	
TOTAL	

# Payments Made to the State of Nevada

BLM	
Payments for grazing, sale of lands, materials, woodland products, etc	\$2,502,742
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	
MMS	
Mineral receipts*	9,216,709
TOTAL	\$18,428,823
* Payments made to the State of Nevada by the Minerals Management Service	

# LANDS AND RENEWABLE RESOURCES



# Resource Management Planning and Environmental Coordination

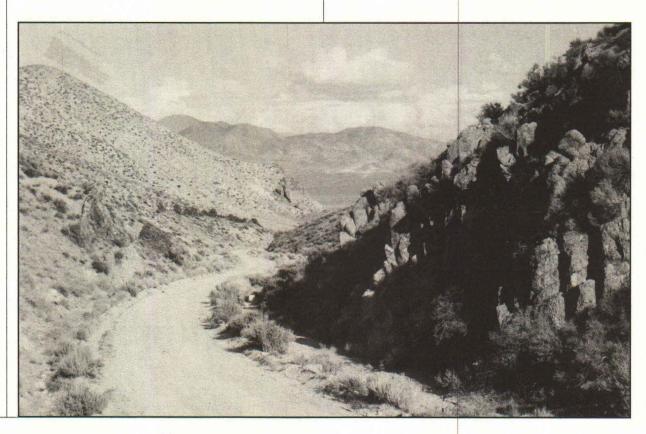
and use plans are designed to respond to public concerns and BLM program priorities. The multiple-use planning system furnishes the support structure for program managers to analyze issues and conflicts affecting the use of the public lands and resources. Because BLM is responsible for managing a variety of resources in a large area of Nevada, the planning system is critical in providing the proper balance between the effective use and necessary protection of these resources. Many activities on BLM-administered public lands are not compatible with other uses. Multiple-use is not an activity, nor even a set of compatible activities, but a philosophical approach to managing the land and all its resources. It is a management framework within which all the various relationships among and between natural resources must be considered.

Proposed uses of Nevada public lands are currently examined and evaluated through Resource Management Plans (RMPs) and Management Framework Plans (MFPs). These processes generate alternatives which provide the information needed by BLM managers to make and implement land use decisions.

P ublic laws, national policy, land characteristics, resource capabilities, and the needs and desires of the public must all be considered in multiple-use planning. Public land resource users, environmental organizations, special interest groups, businesses, other governmental entities, state and local agencies, and affected Indian tribes are all consulted at the onset and during development of the plans. Several steps are required during plan development including data gathering, identifying conflicts, and weighing land use alternatives. Differing combinations of resource uses are proposed and analyzed. If applicable, particular facets such as grazing allotment management and wilderness management receive special attention. Once the analysis is complete and all viewpoints are considered, BLM managers must make the land use decisions that set out the combination and patterns of multiple-use best for the area. Once land use plans are finalized, BLM and interested publics continue to coordinate with plan implementation. Current plans, boundaries and scheduled completion dates are shown on the Land Use Plans Map.

#### **Planning Accomplishments**

During the fiscal year, Nevada BLM was involved in six land use planning efforts in four of six districts. In addition to these major planning efforts, each existing land use plan was monitored and maintained, and field work for the Five-Year Evaluation of the Lahontan RMP was completed. The various planning steps involved with the development of the six planning efforts are described as follows.

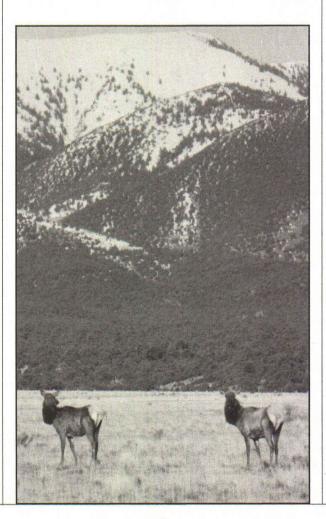


E lko District began work on the Elko RMP Fluids Amendment by conducting a scoping period January-February 1991. This amendment will specifically address how fluids minerals leasing and exploration will be accomplished in the Elko Resource Area and what impacts are expected from leasing and potential exploration and development. Public comments received during this scoping period were used to begin writing the draft amendment and EIS.

Ely District continued to develop the Egan RMP Draft Oil and Gas Leasing Amendment and EIS. Comments and information gathered from scoping meetings were used to address the issue of leasing federal oil and gas resources.

The Caliente Resource Area of Las Vegas District and the Nevada State Office assisted the BLM Director in resolving two protests concerning the management of wild horses on the Nellis Air Force Range planning area. Following the resolution of these protests, preparation of the Approved Nellis Air Force Range Resource Plan and Record of Decision was begun.

S tateline Resource Area, also in Las Vegas District, continued to prepare the Stateline Draft RMP and EIS. This RMP will outline the management of numerous sensitive resources on public lands in Clark County and the southern part of Nye County. Due to the sensitivity and complexity of managing public land resources in this part of Nevada, the preparation of the draft document has taken additional time and will be published and distributed to the public for review during fiscal year 1992 (FY 92). Las Vegas District and the Nevada State Office jointly began preparation of the Clark County MFP Approved Sand and Gravel Leasing Amendment and Record of Decision. Before this final planning document was approved, one of the surface land owners filed an injunction against BLM and the sand and gravel operator. This lawsuit was still pending at the end of FY 91 and, therefore, the amendment is still pending.



Tonopah Resource Area of Battle Mountain District began work on the Tonopah Draft RMP and EIS after a one-year delay. This planning area involves management of public lands in northern Nye County and all of Esmeralda County. The draft document is expected to be available for public review during FY 92.

#### **Environmental Accomplishments**

The environmental program in Nevada continued to emphasize compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The six Nevada BLM districts continued to receive a high volume of proposed actions requiring analysis of the environmental impacts. More than 600 individual actions were analyzed.

The Special Nevada Report on military uses of public lands in Nevada was completed and filed with Congress during the fiscal year.

Major projects resulting in Environmental Impact Statements that were completed or required extensive work effort during the fiscal year were: Southwest Intertie Power Project, Barrick Goldstrike Mine, Ivanhoe Gold Company Mine, Bedell Flat Water Pipeline, Navy Master Land Withdrawal, Clark County Flood Control Project, Moapa Cogeneration Power Plant, and Cortez Mine.

C onsiderable district effort went into preparing or reviewing consultant-prepared environmental analysis of mining plans of operations and amendments to existing plans. The agency continues to refine policies and procedures for accomplishment of cumulative impact analysis.

# Lands and Realty Management

T he lands and realty program involves three major activities: land transfers, land leases, and rights-of-way. The backbone of this effort is a sophisticated records system for keeping track of these activities on millions of acres of public lands in Nevada.

There are various federal laws which allow the transfer of public land into private ownership. Some lands are transferred for specific purposes, such as mineral development or desert land farming. Other lands are traded or exchanged for private land; public lands are also sold each year to the highest bidder at auction. Selection of most of these lands is made through the agency's land use planning system. With the public's help, decisions are made about which lands can best benefit the public by staying in public ownership and which lands are more suitable for private use and development.

Another active disposal program is made possible by the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. Through this law, local governments and nonprofit organizations can obtain public land free or at discounted prices for uses such as schools and community projects. Leases are also authorized by various federal laws. These allow use of the public land for a



limited period of time and sometimes include an option to buy the property through the disposal laws. Rights-of-way involve both energy-related and nonenergy related projects. Energy rights-of-way typically issued in Nevada include power transmission lines. Non-energy rights-of-way include grants to developers to build new access roads across public lands and to expand streets in urban areas; other examples are water pipelines, communication sites, and material site rights-of-way.



#### Land Patents Issued

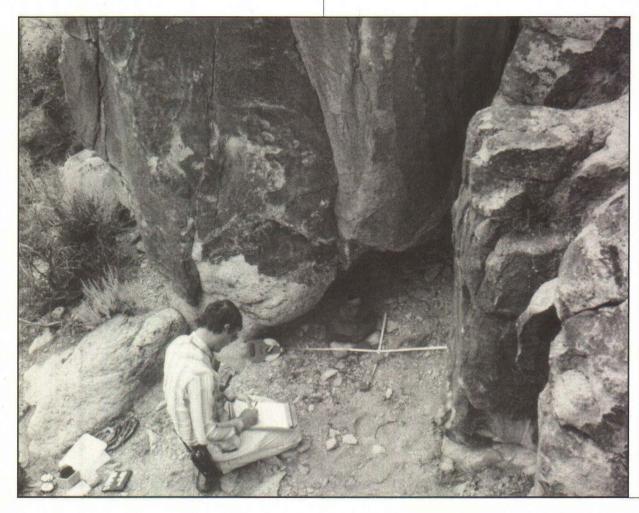
Kind	Acres
Sales	
Recreation and Public Purposes	
Exchange	
Desert Land Entry	
Mineral Patent	
Indian Fee Patent	5
TOTAL	

#### Land Leases in Effect - Sept. 30, 1991

Kind	No.	Acres
Recreation and Public Purposes		
Airport		
TOTAL		

# **Cultural Resources Management**

The objective of the cultural resources management program is to discover and preserve prehistoric and historic archaeological sites, paleontological sites, and sites important to Native Americans. Cultural resources are non-renewable resources managed for scientific, cultural, recreational, and religious uses by the public and for use by future generations. BLM's cultural resources staff, assisted by volunteers and contract professionals, works to inventory, record, and evaluate cultural sites; to protect and stabilize endangered sites; and to interpret the history and prehistory of Nevada. The program also supports other BLM programs with inventories, significance evaluations, and mitigation plans to ensure that agency actions do not inadvertently destroy significant resources.

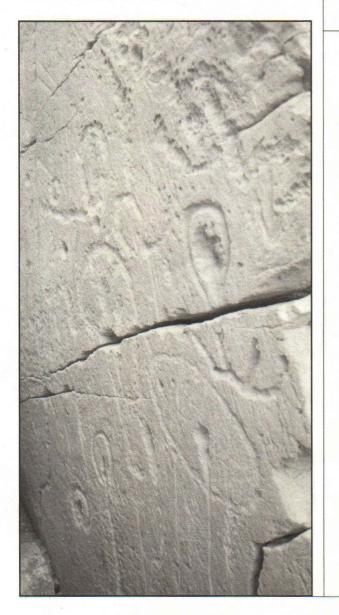


D uring the fiscal year, cultural resources staff worked on a broad spectrum of projects. Winnemucca District completed several Adventures in the Past initiatives. An exhibit, "Peoples of the Humboldt Sink," was a joint effort among BLM, the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), the Nevada Division of Forestry and the Marzen House Museum. An interpretive brochure on Civilian Conservation Corps Camps in Northern Nevada was developed under a cooperative agreement with the Santa Rosa Ranger District.

In Battle Mountain District, the Hickison Petroglyph Recreation Area interpretive site was developed with the aid of volunteers. The Tonopah Resource Area formed a volunteer group, "Friends of Rhyolite," to help manage the resources of this historic town.

I n Ely District, an archaeological field school was conducted in cooperation with Brigham Young University at the Fremont Baker Village Site under a Challenge/Cost Share agreement. Ongoing excavations at the site brought more than 1,000 visitors. Tours were conducted by volunteers and docents, and a visitor reception ramada was built on site by hosted workers. Ely District, in cooperation with the Desert Research Institute, completed stratigraphic trenching and the initiation of photogrammetry work at the Sunshine Locality National Register District.

Elko District, in cooperation with the Forest Service and UNR, completed the first stage of a data recovery project for lakeside habitation sites in Ruby Valley. Las Vegas District managed the disposition of Native American human remains discovered during work on the Kern River Pipeline Project. In Carson City District, volunteers helped construct a mile-long section of interpretive trail at the Grimes Point Petroglyph Site and installed both fencing and protective signs at two historic cemeteries in the Comstock Historic District.



The Nevada State Office coordinated a major cultural exhibit focusing on prehistoric and historic cultural resources of the Great Basin. The exhibit, "Adventures in the Past: A Great Basin Tribute," featured 2,000-year-old tule reed duck decoys on loan from the Smithsonian Institution, displays from five states, and contemporary Native American art. Also featured as part of the Great Basin Tribute was a three-day lecture series on Nevada's cultural and ethnic diversity.

## Cultural Resources Inventory

OVERVIEW		
Item	. FY 91	Total To Date*
Acres Inventoried		
Cultural Sites Found		
Significant Sites Identified		
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PI	ROJECTS	
Project	FY 91	Total To Date*
Protective Signs		
Fencing		
Stabilization		
Patrol and Maintenance		
Interpretation	12	45
SUPPORT SERVICES		
Item	FY 91	Total To Date*
Cooperative Agreements	4	
National Register Sites		
Data Reviews		6,766
Field Inventories		
Field Inventories State Historic Preservation		
		4,587
State Historic Preservation Officer Consultations		4,587
State Historic Preservation Officer Consultations Data Recovery Projects		4,587 
State Historic Preservation Officer Consultations		
State Historic Preservation Officer Consultations Data Recovery Projects Permit Applications		
State Historic Preservation Officer Consultations Data Recovery Projects Permit Applications Permits Issued		

Directed by Congress to review all the public lands for wilderness consideration, BLM embarked on a three-phase review effort consisting of inventory, study, and eventual reporting to Congress of the agency's recommendations. Congress, however, reserved to itself the final decision on which lands will and will not become protected wilderness areas in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Inventory, the first phase of BLM's wilderness review, was brought to a close during fiscal year 1981. Those areas which met the wilderness criteria set forth by Congress, i.e., roadless areas generally in an undeveloped state and having outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation, were identified as Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs).

Studies have been completed on all WSAs in Nevada. During the study phase, wilderness was incorporated into the agency's land use planning system where wilderness resources were evaluated along with all other resources on the public lands. Public involvement was an important step in this process. During the study phase, BLM received minerals reports on WSAs which have been preliminarily recommended as suitable for wilderness during the land use planning process. These reports were made available to the public as they were received.

In the reporting phase, recommendations developed during the study phase are forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior and then to the President, who will in turn forward them to Congress. On October 18, 1991, the Secretary signed the Record of Decision for the Nevada Statewide Wilderness Study Report. In January 1992, these recommendations were forwarded to the President.

# Wilderness



#### Status of the Wilderness Review<sup>1</sup>

Acres designated WSAs<sup>2</sup> and undergoing wilderness study .....5,124,991 (111 units)

<sup>1</sup> Acreage includes public land in Nevada managed or studied by the California, Utah, Oregon, and Idaho BLM Offices, but does not include land in California managed by the Nevada BLM. Acreage figures may vary from other reports for Nevada and California due to WSAs which cross state lines being reported as a whole unit.

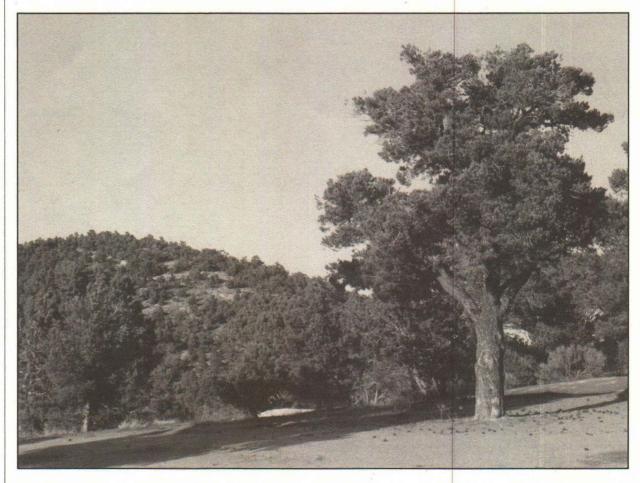
<sup>2</sup> Wilderness Study Areas

# Public Domain Forestry

The objective of this program is to manage forest resources under the principle of sustained yield, thus providing a permanent source of forest products for future generations. To accomplish this, foresters have inventoried over 6,024,000 acres of forest land managed by the BLM in Nevada.

Well-planned forest practices enhance the overall vigor of forest stands, keeping them in a productive state. At the same time, such practices will benefit or improve other resource values, including wildlife habitat. A new agency-wide emphasis on biodiversity is expanding the outlook of the forest management program. The scope of BLM's forestry program has been broadened to give greater emphasis to the health and sustainability of the forest ecosystem and non-commodity forest use.

In coordination with wildlife and fisheries specialists, foresters are actively planning and implementing reforestation of protected riparian communities with various tree species such as aspen and cottonwood. Aspen, once a dominant species within many riparian areas, has been drastically reduced across the state because of land management practices.



## **Forest Products Sales**

District					Total Dollar Value
Elko		1,358			\$24,144
					Contraction of the second s
Carson City					
Ely					
Battle Mountain	1,082				
TOTAL			62,700		\$144,972
Miscellaneous sales includ	ded wildings, boughs, joshua, yuco	ca, cactus, native des	ert vegetation, and seed	with a total value of \$3,616.	

# **Recreation and Visual Resource Management**

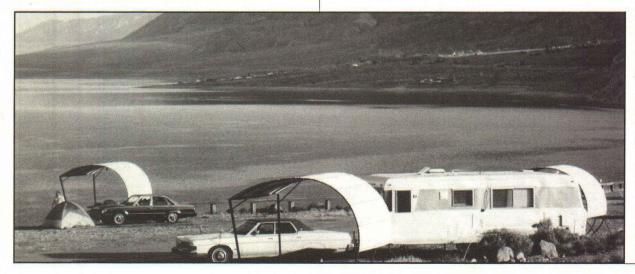
The primary purpose of the recreation management program in Nevada is to ensure the continued availability of both dispersed and concentrated outdoor recreation opportunities which are not readily available from other public entities. Secondary purposes include protecting resources, meeting legal requirements for visitor health and safety, and mitigating resource user conflicts involving recreation.

The visual resource management program serves a dual purpose: to manage the quality of the visual environment and to reduce the visual impact of development activities while maintaining effectiveness in all BLM resource programs. Visual resource management also identifies Back Country Byways and scenic areas that warrant protection through special management attention.

Significantly, the year marked the dedication of the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. The popular recreation area situated west of Las Vegas was set aside for special protection by the 101st U.S.

Congress in legislation supported by Congressman Jim Bilbray and Senators Harry Reid and Richard Bryan. Red Rock's new status will ensure long-term management of the scenic and colorful area for public benefit and the enjoyment of future generations.

C onsiderable emphasis during the fiscal year was placed on managing 27 Recreation Management Areas (RMAs) within Nevada BLM's jurisdiction. Minimum management needed to correct or mitigate problem situations and basic visitor services and courtesies were provided in each of the 27 RMAs. These services and courtesies were essential to maintain recreational opportunities and experiences in each area. The importance of these RMAs is demonstrated by the 23,435,600 hours recorded by visitors during the past year. Some of the most popular RMAs were: Red Rock Canyon and Clark County, Las Vegas District; Indian Creek and Walker Lake, Carson City District; and Wilson and Wildhorse Reservoirs, Elko District.

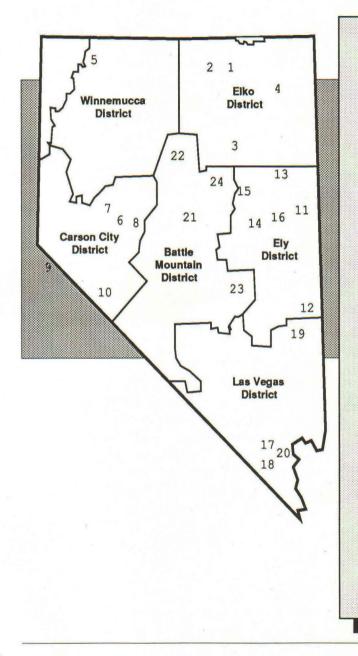


C ome 1,500 recreation-related permits were is-Sued in fiscal year 1991. Of these, 1,360 were fee site (camping) permits; 81 were authorized for competitive recreational events; and 59 were processed for commercial recreation use of the public lands. Permits are issued where it is necessary to protect important natural and cultural resources, to mitigate user conflicts, and to provide for the safety of public land users. Work continued in the fiscal year toward the eventual designation of all public lands in Nevada with regard to off-road vehicle (ORV) use. Off-road vehicle designations are a long-term effort to comply with two presidential orders to protect sensitive areas of public land, to promote safety, and to minimize conflicts among users. Fiscal year 1980 was the first year public lands in Nevada were designated open, closed or limited to ORV use. All public lands will eventually be so designated through the land use planning system.

Fiscal year 1989 marked the initiation of the agency's Back Country Byways Program. Back Country Byways are dedicated roads and trails having special scenic, aesthetic, cultural and/or historic appeal. Back Country Byways may contain outstanding scenic vistas, unusual geology or other elements, all providing enjoyment for the public land visitor. Byways are accessible by touring cars, pickup trucks, four-wheel drive vehicles, motorcycles and snowmobiles. As of fiscal year 1991, the Nevada BLM has officially dedicated a total of six Back Country Byways.

C amp and picnic grounds are popular recreation spots; BLM currently maintains 24 such sites in Nevada. A map and list of sites follow.

# **BLM Recreation Sites**



DISTRICT NO.	ON MAP	NAME OF SITE	UNITS	FEE
Elko	1	*North Wildhorse	19	\$3
	2	*Wilson Reservoir	15	+
	3	Zunino/Jiggs Reservoir	5	+
	4		8	+
Winnemucca	5	Big Onion	4	+
Carson City	6	Sand Mountain (D.U.O.)	2	+
	7	Grimes Point (D.U.O.)	2	+
	8	.Cold Springs (D.U.O.)	3	+
		ndian Creek (in California)		
	10	Sportsman's Beach	17	+
Ely	11	Cleve Creek	6	+
	12	Meadow Valley	6	+
	13	Goshute Creek	2	+
	14	Illipah Reservoir	8	+
	15	Cold Creek Reservoir	6	+
	16	Garnet Hill (D.U.O.)	3	+
Las Vegas	17S	andstone Quarry (D.U.O.).	3	+
	18	Willow Creek	7	+
	19	Big Tree (D.U.O.)		+
	20	Red Spring (D.U.O.)	4	+
<b>Battle Mountain</b>	21	Hickison Petroglyph	16	+
		Mill Creek		
	23	.Lunar Crater (D.U.O.)	1	+
	24	Tonkin Springs	1	+
*	Water sui	table for drinking.		
(D.U.O.)	Day Use			
(2.0.01)	No fee sit			

# Wildlife Habitat Management

The BLM manages habitat important to a variety of wildlife species in Nevada. Virtually all of the state's wildlife species are dependent upon lands managed by BLM at some time in the course of their life cycle. Animals such as mule deer, bighorn sheep, antelope, elk, desert tortoise and waterfowl exist on the public lands because of BLM management efforts conducted in cooperation with the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW).

Nevada BLM's wildlife program has two components. First, the agency has launched an aggressive program designed to maintain and improve wildlife habitat through the development of water sources and the improvement of forage and other habitat values. Second, BLM has introduced a mitigation program designed to minimize potentially adverse impacts resulting from other land use activities. Mitigation will also provide habitat enhancement.

Long term goals and objectives for the wildlife program are identified in the document, "Fish and Wildlife 2000, A Plan For The Future." The tool for implementing these goals and objectives is the Habitat Management Plan (HMP). Seventy HMPs have been completed to date. Implementation of these plans is progressing as funding permits. The ulti-



mate goal is to develop and implement HMPs that will include all public lands in Nevada, for all wildlife species and their habitats. Recovery plans are written in cooperation with NDOW and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to guide management actions necessary for the recovery of listed threatened and endangered species, such as the desert tortoise and the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout.

C oordination with other state and federal agencies is essential to ensure that BLM's management actions are consistent with the efforts of other entities and the needs of Nevada's wildlife resources. Coordination and cooperation with volunteer groups and conservation organizations resulted in the con-

## Wildlife Project Work

34
50
32 acres
8 miles
65 acres

struction of most of the projects built on the public lands in 1991.

During the fiscal year, habitat maintenance and improvement actions included maintaining 50 existing projects and completing 64 new projects. These include:

- Planting trees and shrubs along water courses
- Constructing wildlife water catchments
- Building ponds for endangered fish species
- Constructing protection exclosures to improve fisheries habitat
- Installing bird ladders in stock water troughs
- Inventorying and monitoring wildlife habitat conditions for big game, water fowl, fish, and endangered plant and animal species
- Maintaining riparian enclosure fences and wildlife watering facilities

In addition, more than 70 Section 7 consultations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were completed to ensure the protection of habitat for listed threatened and endangered species.

I n all, approximately 185,000 mule deer, 9,000 antelope, 4,800 bighorn sheep, 2,000 elk and numerous small game and fishes provided approximately two million recreational days valued in excess of 60 million dollars. The agency expended \$1.8 million in the administration of the wildlife program. Expenditures by all other agencies are not available; however, the net monetary return to the State of Nevada far exceeds expenditures.

# **Rangeland Improvements**

S ome of Nevada's public rangelands are currently producing vegetation at less than full potential. Water is limited or isn't naturally avail-



able on much of Nevada's range. Management systems often include fencing for more appropriate distribution of animals and rotational use of vegetation resources.

The objective of the range improvement program I is to improve range conditions within the framework of multiple-use management and Nevada's recently completed land use plans. Important to that effort is the timely and efficient completion of structures, developments, and land treatments, coupled with proper grazing management; these are all key factors supporting management actions vital to improving range conditions. Most of these projects are required to support intensive grazing management. However, other resource values and objectives are considered in designing the projects to ensure that maximum benefit is realized by all uses. One example of supplemental benefits is the construction of a fence and well which are required to implement a livestock grazing system. The resulting change in grazing use patterns may also reduce grazing competition on an adjacent deer winter range or riparian area. This action is important for other resource values or uses and may provide additional water for resident wildlife or a band of wild horses or burros.

Most funding for the rangeland improvement program originates from grazing fees paid by livestock permittees holding grazing privileges or licenses. However, this source may also be supplemented by funds appropriated under the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978, direct congressional appropriations or contributions received from non-BLM sources.

C onsistent with the agency's Rangeland Improvement Policy, range betterment funds were spent to support not only domestic livestock grazing, but also terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat and riparian improvement programs (see table).

Improvements Completed <sup>*</sup>	

Type of Improvement	New Construction (Range)	New Construction (Wildlife)
Cattleguards/Management F	acilities 15 each	0
Water Facilities		6 units
Vegetation Manipulation		0

\* Range betterment funds and partially contributed funds only. Does not include fire rehabilitation funds.

# **Grazing Management**

During 1991, emphasis in the grazing management program in Nevada continued to be on land use plan implementation, monitoring, preparing allotment evaluations, entering into grazing agreements and issuing multiple use decisions to effect a change in grazing in order to meet land use plan objectives.

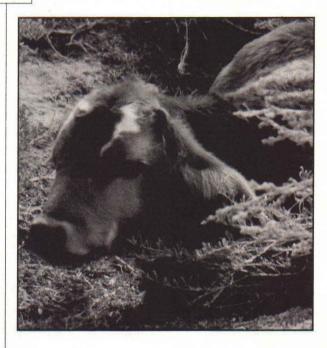
The grazing management program has assigned priorities to management efforts using a selective management approach. Under this approach, grazing allotments are categorized into "I," "M," and "C" management categories. The objectives for these categories are to: 1. Improve (I) current unsatisfactory conditions; 2. Maintain (M) current satis-



factory conditions; or 3. Manage Custodially (C) while protecting existing resource values. Proposed actions for managing allotments within each category are designed to meet these objectives.

The program consists of authorized livestock grazing on 811 allotments over approximately 45 million acres of public land. Of these allotments, 268 are categorized "I" on 28 million acres of public land; 279 are categorized "M" on 10 million acres; and 263 are categorized "C" on 7 million acres.

N evada BLM is in the process of monitoring all grazing allotments with an emphasis on "I" and "M" allotments. An allotment evaluation of the monitoring studies is conducted to determine if management is meeting resource objectives or if adjustments in grazing use are necessary. Grazing uses that are being monitored are livestock, wildlife, wild horses and burros. By the end of the fifth year following completion of the land use plan, the results of monitoring may indicate that existing management is meeting land use plan objectives. If monitoring studies indicate that an adjustment in



grazing use is appropriate, adjustments are made by issuing a multiple use decision or by entering into an agreement with the permittee. Important to this process is cooperation, consultation and coordination with livestock permittees and other interested publics.

## Number of Grazing Allotments and Acres by Allotment Category

Allotments	d
Acres	

Number of Allotments and Acres Monitored

<b>T</b> . <b>C</b> .	
Item Category	I Category M Category C
Allotments	
Acres	

Grazing management program personnel continue to administer and manage the public lands by issuing grazing authorizations, conducting compliance checks, and taking action on trespass, when necessary.

An important aspect of the grazing management program is the development of activity plans or Allotment Management Plans (AMPs). Of the 811 grazing allotments in Nevada, 165 have implemented AMPs. The coordinated resource management planning process, which began in 1981, incorporates input from various interest groups. Special emphasis is also being given to the reassessment and evaluation of riparian areas and whether objectives identified for the riparian areas in the land use plans are being met.

> Number of Operators and Number of AUMs<sup>1</sup> Authorized to Graze on Public Lands During Fee Year 1990<sup>2</sup>

			-Animal Unit Months-	
District	Number of Operators	<b>Cattle &amp; Yearlings</b>	Horses & Burros	Sheep & Goats
Elko				
Winnemucca				
Carson City				
-				
Battle Mtn.				
TOTAL				
	unit month is the amount of forage requi	red by an animal unit for one mor		
Grazing fee year 199	90 ran from March 1, 1990, to Feb. 1, 1	991. 182/875		

# Wild Horse and Burro Management

This program was created with the passage of the Wild, Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971. This federal law now provides for protection, management, and control of all wild horses and burros on lands administered by BLM and the U.S.

Forest Service. Nearly 50,000 wild horses and burros inhabit these lands nationally. The bulk (46,500 horses and burros) live on public lands administered by BLM in 10 Western states. Nevada's share, which includes most of the wild horses, is outlined below.

### Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros in Nevada

District	Horses	Burros
		0
	4,940	
	4,181	



BLM's goal is to provide uniform and effective direction for managing these animals and to establish a natural ecological balance which will benefit wild horses and burros as well as other users of the public lands.

The agency gathers wild horses and burros for a variety of reasons. Most animals are gathered in order to preserve and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance and multiple-use relationship in the area. BLM, by law, honors removal requests by private landowners if wild horses or burros stray from public lands onto privately owned lands. The number of animals removed during the fiscal year is noted at right.

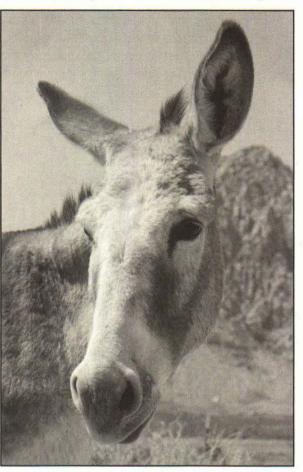
### **Gathers Completed**

District	Horses	Burros
Elko	0	0
Winnemucca	0	0
Carson City		0
Ely		
Las Vegas		
Battle Mountain		
TOTAL		0

A fter a gather, excess wild horses are transported to a BLM placement center for handling. In Nevada, the animals are conveyed to the National Wild Horse and Burro Center at Palomino Valley near Sparks where they are carefully checked, given necessary veterinary care, inoculated, and freezebranded with a permanent identification code. Those animals found to be branded or privately owned are turned over to the State of Nevada for handling. Some animals die from natural causes or are humanely destroyed as ordered by a veterinarian because of certain illnesses or infirmities.

The large majority of excess animals are adopted under BLM's "Adopt-A-Horse" program, either from the Nevada facility at Palomino Valley or from one of the agency's adoption centers in other states. Many Nevada horses and burros are adopted in satellite adoptions in the East and Southwest. A typical satellite adoption is held on a weekend in an area where sufficient adoption demand has been identified to place 50 to 100 animals in private care. During the fiscal year, BLM owned and operated adoption centers in Palomino Valley, Nev.; Kingman, Ariz.; Susanville and Ridgecrest, Calif.; Rock Springs, Wyo.; Burns, Ore.; and Lindsay, Okla. In addition, contract adoption centers were located in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Tennessee.

In 1986, the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board recommended privately-funded sanctuaries as an alternative to long-term maintenance of unadopted wild horses at government expense. (These are primarily older animals or animals with physical deformities or flaws which make them undesirable for adoption). In 1988, the first sanctuary was established when BLM entered into a cooperative agreement with the State of South Dakota, the South Dakota Community Foundation and the Institute of Range and the American Mustang. The



South Dakota sanctuary consists of two sites: one in the Black Hills, and one southwest of St. Francis, near the Nebraska border. Total capacity of the two sites is 2,000 head.

In September 1989, BLM signed a cooperative agreement with the Tadpole Cattle Company of Bartlesville, Okla., to establish the second sanctuary for unadopted wild horses. Like the South Dakota site, the Oklahoma sanctuary has a capacity of 2,000 horses.

In addition to the sanctuary program, prisons in the states of Wyoming, New Mexico and Colorado have programs to gentle and halter break horses which are then offered for adoption.

The year 1991 marked the twentieth anniversary of the Wild Horse and Burro Act. To commemorate the occasion, Nevada BLM participated in three major events. In May, the nation's first Wild Burro Range was dedicated at Marietta, Nev. In September, the anniversary was celebrated through the sponsorship of a hot air balloon in the Tenth Annual Great Reno Balloon Races, attended by a crowd of more than 150,000. In December, a major satellite adoption was held in Las Vegas concurrently with the National Finals Rodeo.

#### **Disposition of Excess Animals**

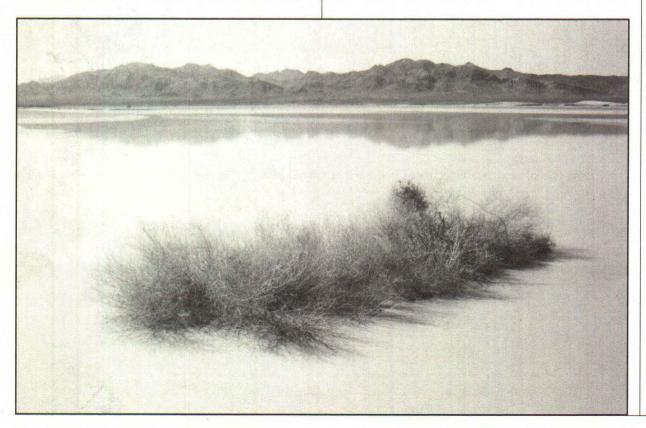
No. Adopted in Nevada	754
No. at Palomino Valley, Start of FY 91	559
Died or Humanely Destroyed	
Balance Remaining at Palomino Valley, End of F	

# Soil, Water and Air Resource Management

L ong-range objectives of this program are to stabilize watersheds; to protect soil, water, and air resources from further deterioration; and to develop or improve watershed conditions to meet specific resource needs. Typical needs include greater water quality and/or quantity, reduction of flood damage, reduction of sediment, and minimization of airborne materials. Needs are determined by soil, water, and air resource inventory and analysis.

Short-range goals are accomplished through resource development and conservation programs which apply land treatments such as grass seeding, brush control, or fencing to control or help prevent soil erosion and water and air resource degradation. By reducing erosion and restoring soil productivity, other resource use values such as fish and wildlife development, livestock forage, woodland production, outdoor recreation, and aesthetic values on watershed areas are enhanced. These treatments result in better air and water quality, renewal of ground water supplies, control of flood and sediment, protection of public health, and stabilization of local economies.

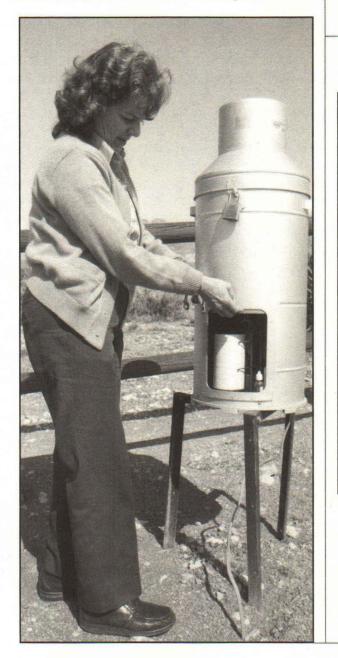
In order to assist the State of Nevada and to determine impacts of land management practices, a planned water quality monitoring program has been



underway since 1979 on BLM-administered lands statewide. These key sample locations are part of a continuing program to provide management information regarding water quality on public lands within Nevada. This effort is coordinated with the State of Nevada and other federal agencies.

Nevada BLM in 1984-85 established three acid rain monitoring stations located at the Saval Ranch near Elko, at Lehman Caves National Monument in White Pine County (in cooperation with the National Park Service), and at the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area near Las Vegas. The three sites, part of the National Atmospheric Deposition Program and the National Trends Network, will measure different levels of acidic substances as they occur in various precipitation forms. This information will be used for comparative purposes and with data gathered from other monitoring stations to track possible emission sources.

Soil surveys are conducted statewide to provide land managers with information so that soils can be used within capability and treated according to soil needs. Soil interpretive data provides base line information that will assist in making decisions on: identification of present and potential ecological plant communities; ecological condition of plant communities; identification of potential agricultural soils; soil suitability for rangeland seeding; location of structures, highways, utility corridors, recreational facilities, etc.; determination of allowable soil losses and control of erosion; reclamation of mined land, burn areas; and integrated and comprehensive assessment of soil resources for land use planning. The long-range goal is to inventory soils on all BLM-administered land in Nevada by 1996. As of



Oct. 1, 1991, more than 59 million acres of soil inventories have been completed. Following is a list

of BLM district accomplishments for the fiscal year and cumulative totals.

## Soil Inventories

District	FY 91	Soil Survey Accomplishments (Acres)* Cumulative to Oct. 1, 1991	Ecological Status Inventories Cumulative to Oct. 1, 1991
Elko	243,241	9,927,196	4,997,910
Winnemucca.	520,947		4,852,998
Carson City	0	6,414,152	2,771,338
		9,292,980	
Susanville	0		1,019,000

\* Includes "checkerboard" railroad lands and scattered parcels of private lands within BLM planning area boundaries.

\*\* Acreage includes approximately 6 million acres of low intensity (Order 4) soil surveys that will be converted to Order 3.

# Fire Rehabilitation

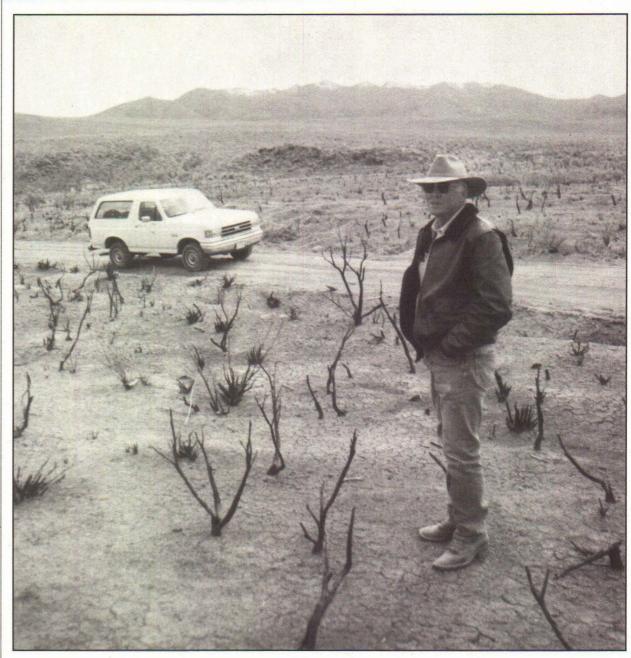
I mmediately after a wildfire on the public lands is contained by BLM firefighters, other resource specialists begin evaluating the area to see if it has the potential for rehabilitation and if rehabilitation is cost-effective or necessary to meet resource objectives. BLM considers fire rehabilitation an emergency measure, second only to suppression of the wildfire and protection of life and property from flood or other natural disasters that can follow.

The goals of BLM's fire rehabilitation efforts are to minimize loss of soil and productivity, loss of water control, deterioration of water quality, and damage to property on or near the burned area.

A decision on whether or not to attempt rehabilitation is based upon a thorough but expeditious environmental assessment of the area. In some cases the assessment may indicate that rehabilitation efforts are unnecessary and could be more damaging than the fire. In other cases the agency begins planning seeding or construction efforts within 30 days after the fire is controlled. Actual rehabilitation work commences no more than 90 days after the fire unless the State Director defers the action because of a lack of moisture.

### Fire Rehabilitation Completed on Public Lands

District	Seeding (Acres)	
Battle Mtn.	70	
TOTAL	70	



# MINERAL RESOURCES



## **Minerals Management**

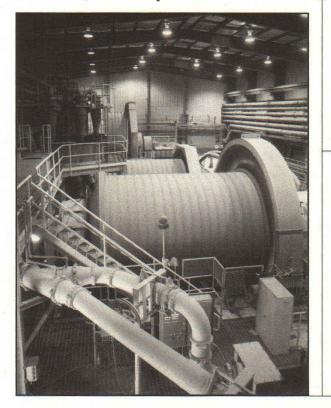
M inerals development is an important land use within BLM's multiple-use program in Nevada. The state is currently seeing the benefits and impacts of a new gold rush. Most of the new activity is occurring on federal lands. More than 60 percent of the gold mined in the United States now comes from lands in Nevada. In 1991, the United States surpassed the Soviet Union to be the second largest producer of gold in the world. Mineral production on public land in Nevada involves three distinct systems: location, leasing, and material sale. Location involves minerals like gold and silver under the general mining laws, such as the Mining Law of 1872. Miners locate claims to acquire mineral rights. When a valuable deposit is found, the mining claim may be patented and title obtained to both the mineral and surface land. Oil and gas, geothermal, sodium, and other similar



minerals are available through mineral leasing. Leases on tracts are issued for specific periods of time and the lessee pays a rental fee and royalties on the mineral produced. Common sand, gravel, and other construction materials are available through material sales or through free use permits to governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations. Geothermal development has also expanded greatly with seven power plants and one direct use facility on federal lands now producing and with others under construction or permit.

Tineral production on Indian lands involves primarily a leasing or contract system. All minerals, including gold and silver, are leasable on Indian lands. BLM acts as a mineral consultant to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for exploration and mining operations on Indian lands. The agency also continues to implement a minerals resource policy which reflects the mandates of the Executive and Legislative branches. Generally, this policy recognizes that public lands are an important source of the nation's mineral and energy resources and that public lands should be available for orderly and efficient development of these resources under principles of balanced multiple use management and economically and environmentally sound practice. BLM has also been emphasizing the need for additional upfront coordination by field offices with the public on the new plans and notices submitted to BLM.

In 1991, BLM implemented major cyanide management and reclamation permit coordination programs for mines on public lands in coordination with State of Nevada environmental and minerals management agencies. D uring 1991, Nevada continued to be a major producer of non-fuel mineral resources and the primary exploration target for precious metals. Nevada was first in the nation in the production of gold, silver, barite, magnesite, gemstones and mercury. It was also a major producer of lithium and diatomite. Most of the production in Nevada was from federal lands. A total of 25,764 claims were recorded during the fiscal year, bringing the total claims recorded in Nevada under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act to 623,329. Nevada BLM offices received 914 notices and 149 plans under the hardrock mining regulations contained in 43 Code of Federal Regulations 3809. This has resulted in 3,500 active operations in the state which



## Locatables

must be monitored--more operations than any other state with federal lands. Fifteen of the 25 largest

gold mines in the United States are partially or fully on public lands in Nevada.

### Mining Claim Recordation Status

Total claims recorded during FY 91......25,764 Total claims recorded through Sept. 30, 1991......623,329

### Mining Claim Patents

Туре	No.	Acreage
Placer		
Lode		0.337
Millsite		
TOTAL		727.527

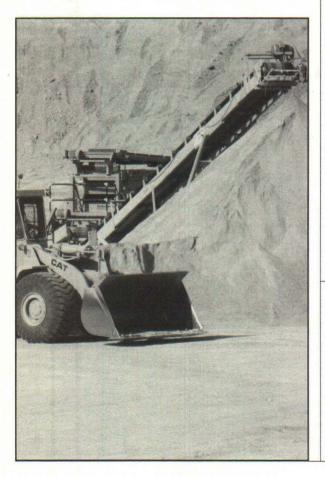
Notices and Plans of Operations Filed Under the Hardrock Surface Management Regulations

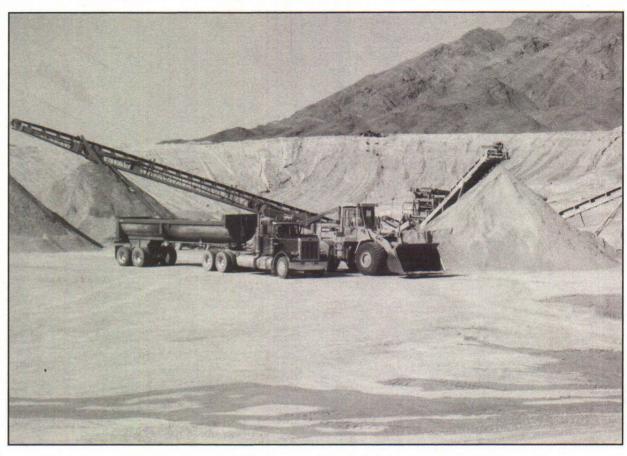
District	Notices	Plans
Elko		
Winnemucca		
	94	

## Salables

C ommon sand, gravel and other construction materials on federal lands are disposed of through material sales or through free use permits for government agencies and nonprofit organizations. Other materials include topsoil, clay, riprap, common borrow, etc.

BLM maintains 73 community pits in Nevada for public use of sand and gravel, riprap, decomposed granite and other salable minerals. Additional information is available through BLM District Offices.





### **Mineral Materials**

Type of Case	No. of Permits	Volume in Cubic Yards	Value
Material Sales			\$1,139,206
Free Use Permits			236,780
TOTAL			\$1,375,986

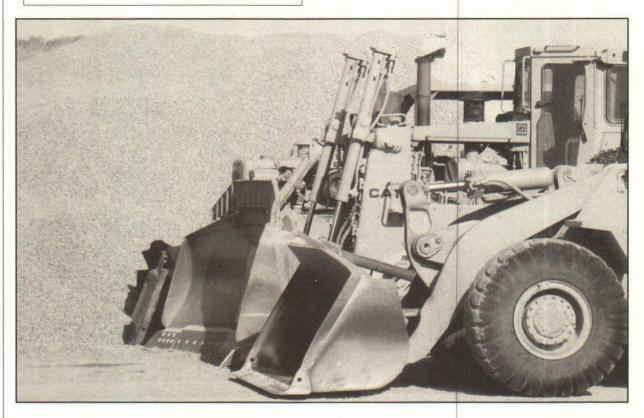
## Solid Leasables

There has been renewed activity in exploration and development of sodium and potassium. Preference right lease applications are being processed for Humboldt Sink and Winnemucca Lake. Two proposed operations are solar evaporation projects for near-surface brines where the primary products would be sodium chloride and sodium sulphate. One lease, Rhodes Marsh, is for sodium sulphate production by solar evaporation with a byproduct of sodium chloride. Interest in Nevada's playas for solar salt-brine extraction operations can be expected to continue.

BLM has been in consultation with Indian tribes and the Bureau of Indian Affairs concerning possible hardrock mineral development in Nevada. All minerals are leasable on tribal reservations. BLM also conducts production verification activities for current mineral production on tribal lands. In the past year this has primarily been for sand and gravel on the Pyramid Lake Reservation.

Production and Royalty from Sand and Gravel Leases

Tonnage	Value	Royalty
2,698,928 tons	\$9,634,007	\$540,228



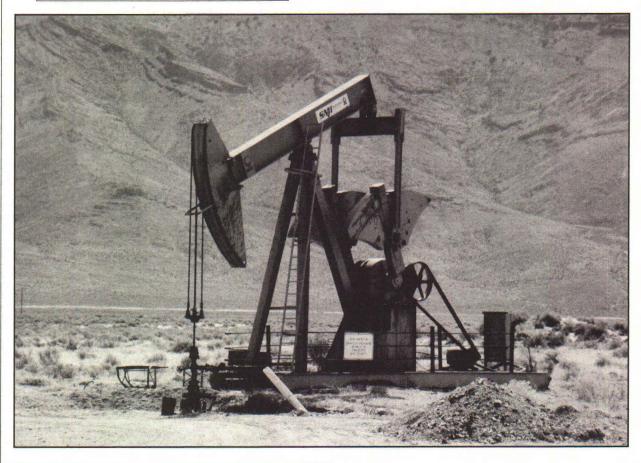
### Mineral Leases and Permits in Effect

Туре	No.	Acreage
Sodium leases; sodium, potassium permits	22	
Preference right lease applications	5	
Lake Mead prospecting permit applications	a dia 1976 mpikati pertakan sebagai seb	
Sodium, potassium prospecting permit applications	21	
Sand and gravel leases, applications		
Gold lease application		
Gold prospecting permit applications	2	
TOTAL		
* Includes Indian land leases.		

## Oil and Gas

hile oil and gas exploration activity slackened in Nevada during the fiscal year, oil production figures continued to climb to a new high of more than four million barrels per year. Tight exploration budgets have caused a decrease in oil exploration activity in Nevada. Total acres under lease fell nearly 700,000 acres compared to 1990 figures. During the year, 21 oil wells were drilled in Nevada, but only three were producing on federal lands. One of three new wells, Apache's Grant Canyon No. 7, is the most prolific onshore well in the lower 48 states; it is producing more than 2,700 barrels of oil daily (at 42 gallons per barrel)--oil which flows freely from the well to the tanks with no pumping required. The two other successful wells were drilled by Makoil and have set new production levels for the Munson Ranch field. Both new wells have initial production rates in excess of 1,000 barrels per day.

Nevada's geologic complexity keeps the chances of finding a new oil field slim, but continued expansion of our knowledge of existing fields has reaped new and pleasant results. These rich oil bonanzas should keep Nevada in a leading position as one of the last oil frontiers of the American West.



#### Nevada Oil and Gas Activity

Fiscal Year	Applications for Permit to Drill Approved	New Oil Wells Spudded 33	Unit Agreements Approved	Development Contracts In Effect	Acres Under Federa Oil & Gas Lease
1985					Not Available
1986			9	0	
1987			11		5,991,560
988					
989					
990					
					7,075,832.81

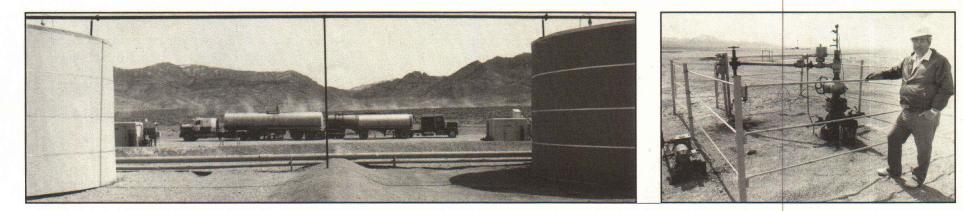
#### Oil and Gas Leases in Effect by County

County	Compe	titive	Non-Co	mpetitive	Simulta	neous**
Name	Leases	Acres	Leases	Acres	Leases	Acres
Carson City	0	0	0	0	0	0
Churchill	0	0			1	
Clark	0	0			14	
Douglas	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elko		46,357.62		470,843.062	132	375,837.494
Esmeralda	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eureka	105	168,134.084	176			671,968.366
Humboldt	0	0		1,318.72	0	0
Lander				61,009.37	2	12,025.47
Lincoln	30	53,217.9		653,113.65	65	227,637.99
Lyon	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mineral	0		0	0	0	0
Nye	231	231,011.27	414	902,030.412	440	
Pershing	0	0	6		0	0
Storey						
Washoe	0				0	0
White Pine		248,523.85	290	642,106.43	316	1,006,755.81
TOTAL ACRES		749,804.734		3,133,974.934		3,192,057.151

#### TOTAL OF 7,075,8322.819 ACRES

#### TOTAL OF 3,205 LEASES

\*\* The Simultaneous Leasing Program has been terminated because of the Dec. 22, 1987, amendment of the 1920 Mineral Leasing Act. These leases were issued under this now expired program.



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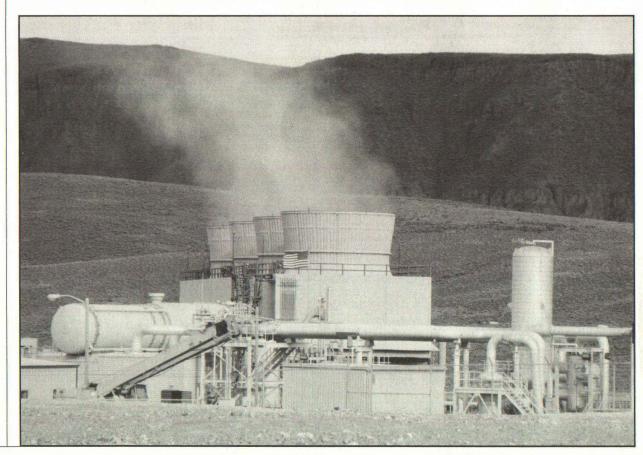
## **Geothermal Energy**

**D** LM issues two type of leases for geothermal **D** exploration and development on public lands: non-competitive and competitive. Non-competitive leases are issued, subject to any applicable environmental protection stipulations, on a firstcome, first-served basis. These leases require a filing fee plus the first year's base rental, which is due upon application. The base rental is one dollar per acre per year. Competitive leases may be obtained by competitive sealed bonus bid. The successful bidder pays the required competitive base rental fee of two dollars per acre per year. Geothermal leases have a primary period of ten years. Beginning in the sixth year of either type of lease there is a diligent exploration expenditure obligation to ensure exploration will continue until a commercial well is completed or the lease is terminated. Alternatively, the lessee may pay an additional rental charge of three dollars per acre per year. As of the end of the fiscal year, there were 156 non-competitive geothermal leases totaling 259,647 acres, and 53 competitive geothermal leases totalling 88,134 acres. This total of 347,781 acres leased generated annual rental revenues of approximately \$435,915, half of which was returned to the State of Nevada.

D uring the fiscal year, geothermal development activity in Nevada continued to expand. The Soda Lake II power plant began operation. There are seven power plants in Nevada utilizing public geothermal resources. Electrical generation capacity from these power plants totals 133 megawatts. Sales of electricity during the fiscal year exceeded \$68 million, a slight increase from fiscal year 1990. Royalties from these sales exceeded \$1.8 million, half of which is returned to the State of Nevada. An expansion of the Steamboat power plant is proposed. One direct use facility is also utilizing public geothermal resources. This facility is a heat exchange system operated in conjunction with a heap leach mining operation.

#### Geothermal Drilling Activity in Nevada

Number of Exploration Wells Drilled9Number of Development Wells Drilled1Number of Development Plans Submitted1



#### Geothermal Well Summary

Total number of all temperature gradient holes drilled as of September 1991438
Total number of all exploratory wells drilled as of September 1991:
Producible or usable
Plugged and abandoned
TOTAL

#### **Geothermal Development Projects**

STATUS	OPERATOR	MEGAWATTS	<b>BLM DIST. OFFICE</b>
Operational			
Beowawe	Oxbow		Battle Mountain, Elko
Desert Peak	California Energy Co		Winnemucca
Steamboat	Caithness Power, Inc		Carson City
San Emidio	Ormat	4.8	Winnemucca
Soda Lake I	Ormat		Carson City
Soda Lake II	Ormat		Carson City
			Carson City, Winnemucca
			Battle Mountain
Proposed			
Steamboat	Caithness	5.0	Carson City
Brady Hot Springs	Brady Assoc	8.1	Winnemucca
Fish Lake Valley	Steam Reserve Corp		Battle Mountain

# OPERATIONS

## Fire Management

The fire management program includes fire prevention, presuppression, suppression, and the use of fire as a resource management tool. These activities are integrated with the land use planning process to ensure that fire use and fire control actions are compatible with the involved ecosystems and other management actions.

During 1991, fire prevention activities were conducted in all Nevada BLM districts with emphasis on cooperation with the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) and the U.S. Forest Service. Activities included public education through presentations at local schools and distribution of Combined Forest Fire Prevention (Smokey Bear) posters, signs, and educational materials. Discussions were held with recreationists, campers, ranchers, and other public land users to explain local burning policies and procedures.



Most of Nevada BLM fire control or suppression actions occur between May 15 and October 31. BLM district organizations initiate fire control actions. Through an extensive communication system, district fire dispatch offices coordinate the use of fire engines, hand line crews, helicopters, smoke jumpers, and retardant aircraft. Electronic technology such as the automatic lightning detection system is also employed.

During the year, the Nevada State Office's Fire Logistics Office served as the Statewide Interagency Fire Coordination Center for Nevada. This involved coordination of fire-fighting resources among NDF regions, National Forests and BLM districts, as well as fire-fighting resources entering or leaving the state. Over 650 Nevada personnel were dispatched to assist other western states and Alaska during the season.

The 1991 fire season activity was below average, with 524 fires for a total of 30,727 acres burned. An average season is considered to be 625 fires, with about 100,000 acres burned.

#### Fire Actions During Calendar Year 1991

District	Number of Fire Actions 9 acres or less		Totals	Assist Fires	BLM	Other Ownership	Totals
Elko		 	119		13,524		17,232
Winnemucca .		 	70		7,753		12,378
Carson City		 0	72				
Percentages		 5				27	

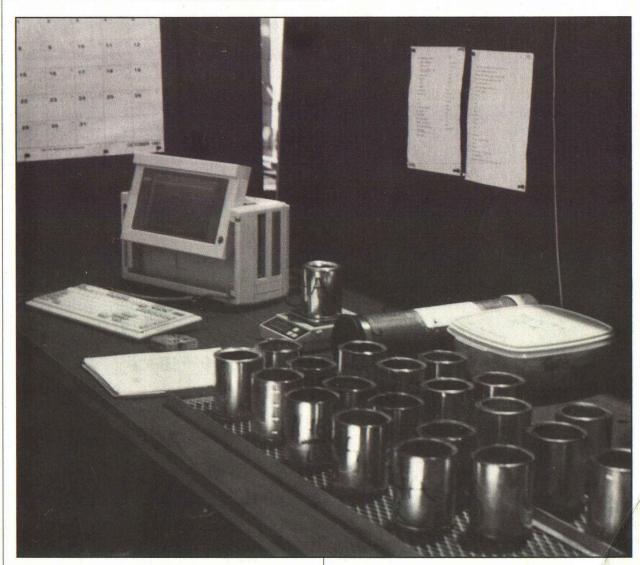
Statewide the cause of fires were: Human caused - 148 fires (7,436 acres); Lightning caused - 376 fires (23,291 acres).

## **Fuels Management**

wo vegetative manipulation projects were begun in recreation areas this year. The first was started in the Indian Creek Recreation Area, Carson City District. Fuel hazard reduction will be completed by cutting and hand piling fuels in and around the campground; these will be burned when weather conditions permit. The second project, in the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, Las Vegas District, will reduce unwanted species of vegetation in the wash area of Pine Creek. These species compete with ponderosa pine for water and soil nutrients. Cutting and hand piling of fuels has begun, and piles covering an area of approximately 10 acres have been burned. A fire ecology trail, designed in harmony with the established Pine Creek trail, will be added. This new trail will meander through a portion of the treated area and will provide hikers an opportunity to observe regeneration of plant life after a fire.

The Great Basin Fuel Moisture Project, which for the last seven years has sampled live fuel moisture throughout Nevada, California and Idaho, added two more sites. Fuel moisture data is becoming an increasingly important tool in the prediction of fire behavior and fire danger.

F or the past three years, Nevada BLM has participated with the Intermountain Fire Sciences Laboratory in a Vegetation Greenness and Site Moisture Study using satellite imagery. The satellite records on a daily basis greenness and moisture values of the United States. A composite image, based on one week's data, is then produced on a color plotter. This year, the use of vegetation greenness data became more user-friendly with the added capability of loading satellite data onto personal



computers. This new technology allows the fire or land manager to view week-old greenness data on a personal computer to a resolution as small as 1/3 square mile. Additional work will be conducted in Nevada to identify thresholds in this greenness data that represent critical periods in fuel moisture loss and a resulting increase in fire danger.

## Cadastral Surveys

adastral surveys, the official government surveys of public lands, are conducted by the Cadastral Survey Branch of each BLM state office. These surveys are fundamental to the proper development and effective administration of the public lands. In Nevada, this program was initiated in 1861. About 29 million acres surveyed prior to 1910 are in need of resurvey because of the lack of remaining evidence of the original corner monuments. About 19 million acres are unsurveyed. Immediate goals of the program are to accomplish surveys necessary for providing descriptions for land disposals including desert land entries, sales, exchanges, and mineral patents, and to define the boundaries of public lands in areas of intermingled public and private ownership patterns so the public lands can be properly managed. Over the course of the fiscal year, three BLM survey crews field-



completed surveys of section lines enclosing 48,800 acres of land. A summary of other survey statistics

and surveys approved during the fiscal year is outlined below.

#### Survey Status

ITEM		FY 90	FY 91
Acres Surveyed	Naval Air Station, Fallon	0	5,507
	BLM		
Acres Resurveyed	Indian Affairs	0	
	Naval Air Station, Fallon		
	BLM		
Acres Unsurveyed			
Plats Accepted			
	ent		
Approved FY 90, 9 mineral Approved FY 91, 8 mineral	panies requesting surveys of boundaries invo surveys consisting of 100 lode claims and 3 surveys consisting of 59 lode claims and 26 r surveys in Nevada, including public, state,	nillsites. nillsites.	

## Hazardous Materials

**B** LM established its Hazardous Materials Program in 1984. The program was first funded by Congress in 1985. Since then the program has provided a structured framework within which the agency can respond to its needs for inventory of potential hazardous waste/material sites, site cleanup, regulatory and legislative coordination, and budget and personnel priorities. Program goals are the protection of public health and safety and the environment, compliance with the hazardous materials laws, and control of federal liability.

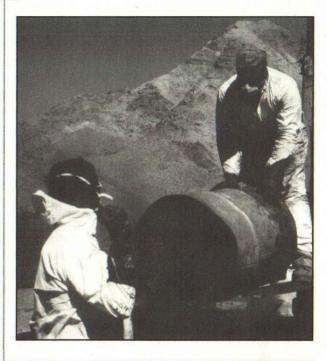
The State of Nevada and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are the authorized regulators enforcing the hazardous materials laws in the state. These laws, which assign very specific liability to the landowner, pose a growing challenge to Nevada BLM. Responding to that challenge, the agency has initiated a series of actions. These include:

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State of Nevada to coordinate hazardous materials responses on public lands issues and incidents. The MOU has functioned well and has provided a medium within which both parties can address issues of common concern.
- Participation in the agency-wide preliminary site assessment/site investigation contract. In Nevada, BLM has nominated 14 sites for study. To date, these studies have recommended additional work at five sites. Further work at these five sites will be scheduled after regulatory review.
- BLM has held discussions with the State of Nevada to establish procedures for handling emergency responses due to spills or

disposal of hazardous materials on the public lands. Two sites have been fenced to protect the public from contact with contaminated materials. PCB-contaminated capacitors, as well as drums of other chemical wastes, have been discovered and removed from the public lands.

- Maintenance of the inventory of potentially contaminated sites on the public lands in Nevada.
- Coordination with the State of Nevada on the monitoring of Recreation and Public Purposes Act landfill leases.

Each District has a hazardous materials coordinator. The duties at the district level are collateral, with the exception of Las Vegas District. In the Nevada State Office, the position of hazardous materials coordinator is located in the Division of Minerals.



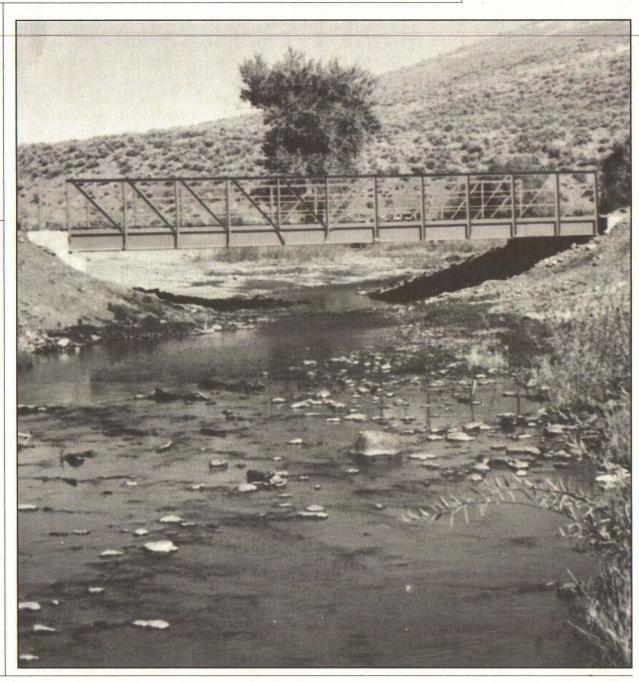


## Facility Construction and Maintenance

The Department of the Interior has implemented Legacy 99, a comprehensive program to improve its facilities in time to celebrate the Department's 150th birthday in 1999. Due to the ever increasing public use of buildings, roads and recreation sites on BLM-administered lands, a high priority has been placed on improving the condition, safety and accessibility of these valuable resources.

#### Facilities Maintenance Resources Expended

116 Buildings\$369,891
35 Recreation Sites\$470,722
9,500 Miles of Roads and Trails \$757,497
(20% of roads and trails per year)



# VOLUNTEER PROG

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## Volunteer Program

D uring the fiscal year, nearly 900 volunteers contributed more than 105,400 hours working on BLM resource improvement projects throughout Nevada. A large majority were Nevada residents; nearly 200 volunteers came from other states. The time and talents contributed by these volunteers-labor with an estimated value of nearly \$1.3 million-went toward improving Nevada's public lands.

Volunteers participated in nearly all renewable resource activities, some facets of energy and mineral resources, and most operations and support services and general administrative services activities. Three programs--wildlife and fisheries habitat management, cultural resource management and recreation resource management--received nearly 46,200 hours (more than 67 percent) of the volunteer efforts in renewable resources. Operations and support services programs received more than 17,000 hours of volunteer time, while administrative activities received some 16,400 hours.

R iparian improvement activities (including the Dixie Creek Riparian improvement project) and the statewide development of a wide variety of wildlife and fisheries improvement projects were the primary beneficiaries of volunteer efforts in wildlife and fisheries habitat management.

Volunteer participation in the cultural resources management program was primarily in cultural site location, site excavation and artifact evaluation. The major contribution of volunteer time, talent and energy was made in excavation at the Fremont Cultural Site near Baker, Nevada.

The recreation resource management program saw

volunteer activity among each of Nevada BLM's six districts.

V olunteer efforts during the year were diverse. These included developing and maintaining trails; hosting at campgrounds; protecting, excavating and restoring archeological sites; assisting with mineral assessments; helping with public information and administrative duties; improving recreation areas and cleaning up trash; developing, inventorying and maintaining wildlife habitat improvements, including assisting with animal trappings and reintroductions; and working with the wild horse and burro program.

#### **Volunteer Service**

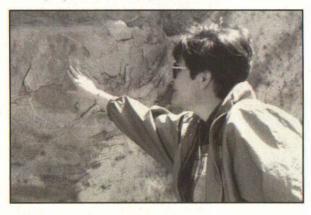
> Monetary value of volunteer work .....\$1,297,052 BLM costs to manage program ......\$95,420

# ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION

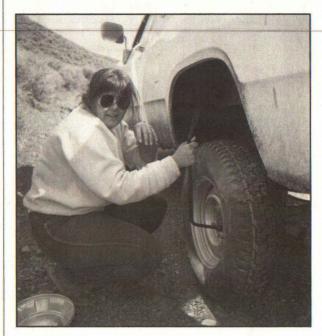
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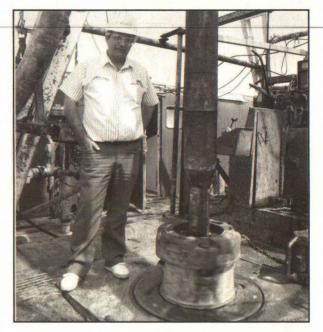
## **BLM** Employment

N evada BLM employment during the fiscal year showed an increase in permanent work force over fiscal year 1990 figures. There were a considerable number of temporary employees on the rolls at the peak of the fiscal year 1991 field season.









### Nevada BLM Employment

Office	Permanent	WAE*	Part-Time	Temporary	Totals
State Office	156	3	6		
Elko	63	5			115
Winnemucca		9			92
Carson City	65	21	0	71	157
Ely		5	0		
Las Vegas	90	6		7	145
Battle Mountai	n59	9	0		92
TOTAL					876*
* When Actually Employed. Includes eight Cooperative Education students.					

## Equal Employment Opportunity

The Multi-Year Affirmative Employment Program Plan for fiscal years 1988-1992 is designed to implement an effective Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) program through awareness, orientation and education.

The goal of the plan is to ensure fair and equal treatment without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex or handicap.

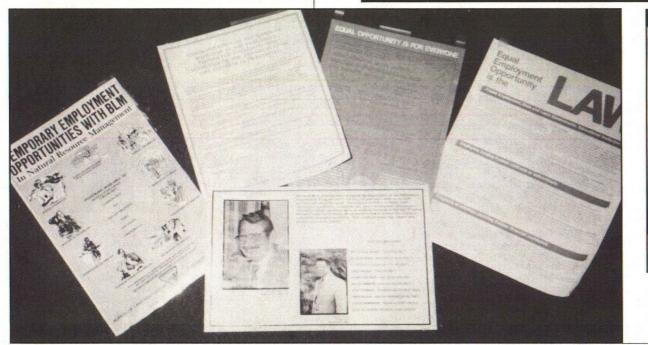
The intent of the plan is to see that all employees and applicants are informed of the remedial channels available in the event they believe they have been a victim of unlawful discrimination.

#### Bureau of Land Management (Nevada) Work Force Profile

	No. of Nevada BLM	Percent of Nevada BLM	Percent of Civilian
Category	Employees	Work Force	Labor Force
Non-minority males			
Minorities (M&F)			

#### **Racial/Ethnic Minorities**

Native Americans	 	0.5%
Asian Americans	 	1.6%
Blacks	 	
Hispanics	 	





Introduction	The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for the management, conservation, protection, use, and disposal of the public lands in Nevada, as well as the	grazing, recreation, mineral, and other resource found on these lands throughout Nevada.
Nevada State Office	Bureau of Land Management Nevada State Office 850 Harvard Way P.O. Box 12000 Reno, Nevada 89520-0006	
Office of the State Director	State Director Associate State Director Secretary	Bill R. Templeton 785-6590 K Lynn Bennett Carol Hadley
Law Enforcement	Provides protection of life and property on the public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.	
	Special Agent in Charge	Leonard Sims 785-6557
Public Affairs	Provides information in response to public and press inquiries and performs informational and educa- tional activities as necessary for public understand-	ing of the agency's land and resource managemen programs.
	Chief, Public Affairs Staff	Bob Stewart 785-6586

Division of Resources	Primarily responsible for program and policy direc- tion in: lands and realty; forestry; range manage- ment; wild horses and burros; cultural resources; wildemess; recreation; visual resources; soil, water	and air; wildlife habitat programs; land use planning and environmental assessment programs. Fire ecol- ogy and inventory coordination matters are also handled within the organization.
	Deputy State Director and Chief, Division of Lands and Renewable Resources Chief, Biological Resources Chief, Lands, Resources, Cultural Heritage and Planning	Daniel Rathbun 785-6464 Terry Woosley 785-6466 Butch Hayes 785-6479
Division of Operations	Provides technical support as well as develops and advises programs in engineering design and con- struction; cartography; cadastral survey; fire con-	trol; trespass; improvement maintenance; access, land and mineral appraisal; lands and minerals op- erations.
	Deputy State Director and Chief, Division of Operations Chief State Appraiser Chief, Cadastral Survey Chief, Engineering Chief, Lands & Minerals Operations Chief, Mapping Sciences Chief, Fire and Aviation Management	Robert Steele 785-6559 Gerald Stoebig 785-6517 Steve Parrish 785-6543 Kim Schuett 785-6555 Marla Bohl 785-6507 Steve Rasmussen 785-6520 Al Dunton 785-6450
Division of Administration	Provides administrative advice and support for per- sonnel, management, incentive awards, budget analy- sis, procurement, property management, organiza-	tional planning, management systems, training, of- fice services, information services, data manage- ment, safety, and central records.
	Deputy State Director, Administration Budget Officer Chief, Administrative Services Chief, Information Resources Management Chief, Personnel Management	Charlie A. Robertson 785-6402 Fred Ramstad 785-6403 Bob Donelson 785-6604 Georgia Wells 785-6436 Del Estey 785-6431

Equal Employment Opportunity	Primarily responsible for providing positive and effective equal employment opportunity programs for employees and applicants for employment; for ensuring fair and equal treatment without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex or Equal Employment Manager	handicap; and for ensuring that all employees are aware of the remedial channels available to them in the event they believe they have been subjected to discrimination in the workplace. William Moon 785-6584
Wild Horse and Burro National Program Office*	Responsible for caring for the health and welfare of horses and burros gathered from BLM's public lands. Animals may be adopted during regular work-	ing hours, during special weekend events and by prior arrangement.
	Acting Chief, Wild Horse and Burro National Program Office Manager, National Wild Horse and Burro Cen- ter at Palomino Valley	Bruce Dawson 785-6611 Fred Wyatt 673-1150
	* The Palomino Valley Wild Horse and Burro Placement Center, formerly an administrative unit of the Carson City District, was designated the National Wild Horse and Burro Center at Palomino	Valley in March 1992. The center is administered by the Wild Horse and Burro National Program Office, which is under the Office of the State Direc- tor.
Division of Mineral Resources	Provides direction for programs in leasable, salable and locatable mineral resources, including non- energy (gold, silver, barite, etc.) and energy (oil, gas, geothermal) minerals. This includes leadership in such areas as exploration and production includ- ing environmental and surface protection; inspec-	tion and enforcement of mineral leases; mining law administration; mineral material sales; and acquisi- tion of geologic data. Also responsible for policy and program direction in hazardous material/waste management on federal lands.
	Deputy State Director and Chief, Division of Mineral Resources	Tom Leshendok 785-6576

	<b>BLM District Offices</b>	
Elko District	P.O. Box 831, 3900 E. Idaho Street Elko, Nevada 89801 (702) 753-0200 District Manager Associate District Manager Elko Resource Area Manager Wells Resource Area Manager Chief, Division of Operations Chief, Division of Administration	Rod Harris Nancy Phelps-Dailey Terry Dailey Bill Baker Doug Mary Danielle Smith
Winnemucca District	705 East 4th Street Winnemucca, Nevada 89445 (702) 623-1500 District Manager Paradise-Denio Resource Area Manager Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area Manager Chief, Division of Resource Management Chief, Division of Operations Chief, Division of Administration	Ron Wenker Scott Billing Bud Cribley Bob Neary Les Boni Judy Patterson
Carson City District	1535 Hot Springs Rd., Suite 300 Carson City, Nevada 89706-0638 (702) 885-6000 District Manager Associate District Manager Lahontan Resource Area Manager Walker Resource Area Manager Chief, Division of Operations Chief, Division of Administration	James Elliott Karl Kipping Mike Phillips John Matthiessen Kelly Madigan John Lukasko

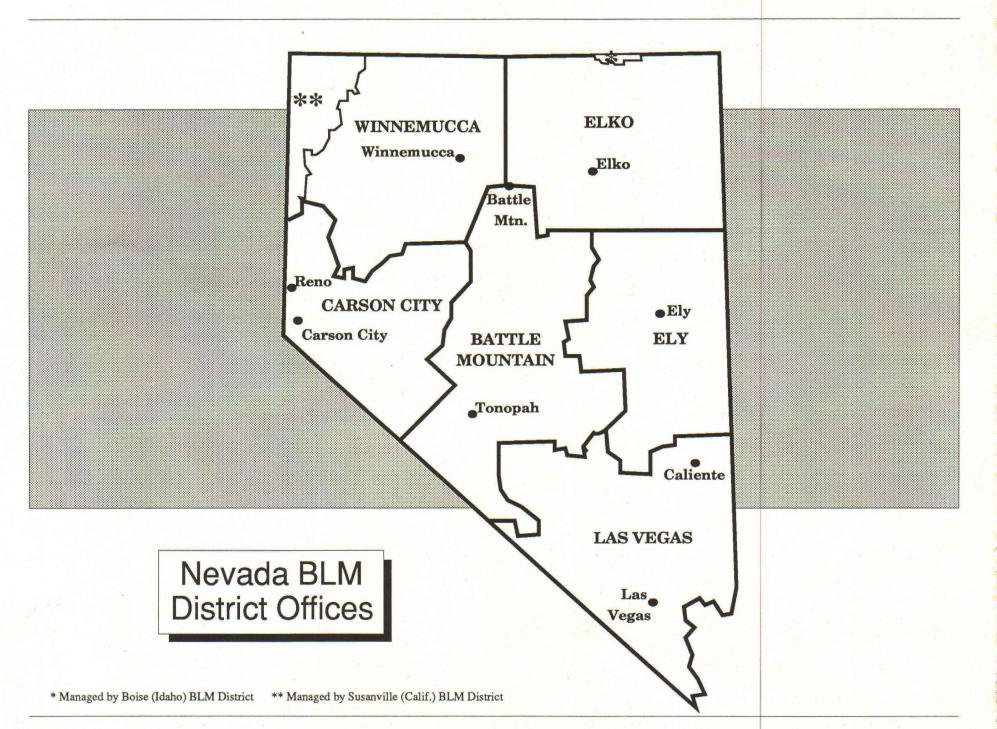
Ely District	702 N. Industrial Way HC 33 Box 150 Ely, Nevada 89301-9408 (702) 289-4865 District Manager Associate District Manager Egan Resource Area Manager Schell Resource Area Manager Assistant District Manager, Operations Assistant District Manager, Administration	Ken Walker Tim Reuwsaat Gene Drais Gerald Smith Hal Bybee Sue Perkins	
Las Vegas District	4765 W. Vegas Drive P.O. Box 26569 Las Vegas, Nevada 89126 (702) 647-5000 Detached Area Office Caliente Resource Area P.O. Box 237 Caliente, Nevada 89008 (702) 726-3141		
	District Manager Associate District Manager Acting Stateline Resource Area Manager Caliente Resource Area Manager Chief, Division of Resource Management Chief, Division of Operations Chief, Division of Administration Chief, Lands Staff, Stateline Resource Area	Ben Collins Gary Ryan Gary Ryan Curtis Tucker Pete Christensen Tom Combs Mason Hall Patricia Hall	

### Battle Mountain District

825 N. 2nd Street Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820 (702) 635-4000

Detached Area Office Tonopah Resource Area Building 102, Military Circle P.O. Box 911 Tonopah, Nevada 89049 (702) 482-6214

District Manager Shoshone-Eureka Resource Area Manager Tonopah Resource Area Manager Chief, Division of Resources Chief, Division of Operations Chief, Division of Administration James Currivan Wayne King Ted Angle Mike Mitchel P. John Keenan Thomas Jury



This publication contains information and statistics about the Bureau of Land Management in Nevada. Unless otherwise noted, information and statistics listed are concerning fiscal year 1991, which covers the 12-month period from Oct. 1, 1990, through Sept. 30, 1991.

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