

## Executive Summary

Idaho BLM State Director K Lynn Bennett emphasizes multiple use management and cooperative working relationships. This management philosophy protects our public land resources while promoting economically viable communities.

*“With growing populations in Idaho, our public land management challenges are becoming increasingly complex,” said State Director Bennett. “I believe our success over the past year can be attributed largely to the dedication of our BLM employees and the cooperation of interested agencies, parties, and private land owners. Together, we are working to ensure the balanced use and protection of our public lands.”*

Through combined efforts, the BLM and its many partners made steady progress in sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of Idaho’s 12 million acres of public lands in fiscal year 2002. This *Idaho Update* profiles those accomplishments made during the fiscal year (October 1, 2001 through September 30, 2002). Within these pages, you will see the accomplishments BLM made to serve the American public and to address critical public land management needs.

Here are some specific examples of our achievements:

### Serve Current and Future Publics

- Accommodated 11.8 million recreation visitors, who spent a total of 4.7 million visitor days and who enjoyed everything from stream fishing and snowmobiling to backpacking through remote and primitive canyons and mountains.
- Generated nearly \$6 million in royalty, rents, and bonuses from 86 federal phosphate leases.
- Generated nearly \$850,000 in revenues from the sale of timber for deposit into the Forest Ecosystem Health and Recovery Fund.
- Processed 31 energy-related rights-of-way, including authorizing 1 oil and gas pipeline, 1 power facility, and 14 transmission lines; amending 8 transmission lines; and renewing 7 transmission lines.
- Processed over 500 agreements actions Statewide. This included processing 98 new Agreements (Challenge Cost Share, Rural Fire Assistance and other Community Assistance) and modifying 95 agreements to add funding.
- Through BLM’s Challenge Cost Share and other programs, formed important lasting partnerships with Tribal governments, State agencies, universities, local governments,

and public groups to inventory, study, and protect important cultural resources on public lands.

- Implemented an aggressive hazardous materials cleanup program involving investigation and cleanup contracts, cooperative agreements, and educational outreach. This included conducting 6 emergency responses, and completing the investigation of 50 sites and the cleanup of 25 sites.
- Treated nearly 69,000 acres of hazardous fuels in wildland areas and around communities at risk to provide greater protection of public and private resources and property.
- Conducted several high impact law enforcement investigations through partnerships, cooperative agreements, and other initiatives with local officials that resulted in convictions and restitution for resource damage.
- Conducted high priority cadastral surveys to resolve forest trespass issues; to identify and post federal land boundaries where logging efforts demand visible markings of timber sale areas; to facilitate off-highway vehicle recreation exchanges; and to support law enforcement actions.
- Through the Geographic Information Systems program, continued work with other federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies to share and coordinate information in an effort to reduce duplicated data collection efforts and to increase the information available for use by all.

## Restore and Maintain the Health of the Land

- Continued work on three new or revised Resource Management Plans (RMPs). These include the Craters of the Moon, Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area, and Bruneau RMPs.
- Began or continued work in 21 counties across the State to involve local governments in the wildland fire risk assessment and planning processes.
- Rehabilitated over 48,000 acres of burned public lands. This rehabilitation included re-seeding 34,000 acres with perennial plants and protecting 14,000 acres from use to allow the recovery of existing native or previously seeded plants.
- Initiated management changes to improve riparian conditions on over 300 acres of wetland and 230 miles of stream.
- Treated about 6,500 acres of public land for noxious weeds.
- By the end of the fiscal year, we had implemented Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines on about 46 percent of the 11.9 million acres of public land in Idaho. We are on schedule to complete the implementation as planned in FY 2009.

## Management Strategies to Improve Organizational Effectiveness

- Continued to lead the BLM in the initiative to collocate office sites with the Forest Service, which has greatly improved both agencies' overall working relationship and inter-agency service to the public. To date, six offices have been collocated, with another six offices scheduled to be collocated within the next 5 years.
- Through the Idaho Employee Development Program, offered a variety of training courses to our employees to ensure that training needs were met, including technical, professional, interpersonal, health and safety, and supervisory skills.
- Reduced the BLM Idaho State Office lease space in Boise, saving taxpayers nearly \$158,000 in FY 2002 and over \$330,000 annually in future years.

*“Managing 12 million acres of public land in Idaho is an important and rewarding challenge,” said State Director Bennett. “I want to thank the many individuals, agencies, and partners who have worked with us during the course of the year. With your support, and with the dedication of our BLM employees, we will continue to build a foundation that will serve the needs of current and future generations.”*

