



Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Activities within the Missouri River Basin

By statute the BLM manages the lands it is responsible for under a multiple use mandate. This includes grazing, recreation, mineral/energy development, forestry, wildlife habitat, watersheds and others.

For a description of the BLM management direction please see:

http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/About_BLM.html

The BLM manages approximately 18,000,000 surface acres and 41,000,000 acres of sub-surface acres within the Missouri River Basin.

State	Approximate Surface Acres	Approximate Sub-Surface Acres
Montana	6,300,000	15,600,000
Wyoming	11,500,000	16,700,000
South Dakota	274,000	1,500,000
North Dakota	58,000	4,100,000
Colorado	10,000	3,000,000
Nebraska	6,000	240,000
Totals	18,148,000	41,140,000

BLM climate change activities include active support and participation in the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC) and the Climate Science Centers (CSC). The BLM is also preparing several Rapid Ecoregional Assessments (REA) within the Missouri River Basin. The objectives of these studies are to pull together existing science to answer management questions developed by the field offices. The basic framework is the analysis of the three Conservation Elements 1- terrestrial habitats, 2- aquatic habitats and, 3- species of concern and the identified Change Agents of 1- climate change, 2- wildland fire, 3- insect & disease and, 4- development. The BLM is using downscaled Regional Climate Models developed by Steve Hostettler of the Corvallis, Oregon USGS office.

As a land management agency, the BLM utilizes the services of the USGS for most of its science needs in conjunction with the Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Units (CESU). The BLM has an infrastructure to manage its surface and sub-surface acres. The BLM is developing a limited structure of climate change coordinators/specialists to ensure that field personnel and managers have adequate and timely scientific information on which to base its management decisions.

The BLM supports the use of landscape wide collaborative efforts to look across boundaries in an effort to effectively manage biological resources and to analyze potential impacts of management actions in maintaining healthy landscapes. As such the BLM sees the utility and need to share data through a "cloud" like data sharing system where each responsible party maintains their data systems while having them available for cross boundary work. There is also a need to effectively coordinate research activities across the landscape to address region wide priorities to ensure that funding is effectively used to answer landscape scale issues. Avoiding redundancy and the ability to convey consistent messages are important components of actively participating in landscape/ecoregional collaborative efforts.