



## Bureau of Land Management Factsheet

### Overview:

- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) oversees nearly 40% of all US public lands (245 million acres).
- The [BLM mission](#) is to manage public lands for “multiple use and sustained yield,” a mandate that includes conservation.
- Westerners [overwhelmingly want strong conservation policies](#): 80% support achieving the national goal of conserving 30% of lands and inland waters by the year 2030. Conservation is [supported](#) by overwhelming majorities of voters in every party.
- BLM lands [include habitat](#) for 245 plant and wildlife species listed under the Endangered Species Act and 800 rare plant species, 450 of which are found only on BLM lands.

### Current Management:

- **The vast majority** of BLM lands are [open to hard rock mining](#) under a 150 year old mining law.
  - Almost 10% of BLM lands have [active mining claims](#).
- The overwhelming majority of all BLM managed lands are open to leasing for oil and gas.
  - A [2016 analysis](#) found **90 percent** of all BLM managed lands are open to leasing for oil and gas.
  - Oil and gas [leases currently lock up nearly 24 million acres](#) of public land.
  - **Over 47 percent** of all oil and gas leases are [unused](#).
  - The Biden Administration approved more permits to drill on public lands in its first two years than the Trump administration did in their first two.
- **Over 60 percent** of BLM lands are [leased for livestock grazing](#).
  - BLM’s [own analysis](#) shows a large proportion of public lands with grazing leases fail land health standards.
  - A majority of authorized grazing permitting is done [without any environmental analysis](#).
- **Less than 14%** of BLM public lands [have durable protections](#) that prevent development by extractive industry.

### The BLM Public Lands Rule:

- Puts conservation on an equal footing with other uses.
- It gives the agency guidance and direction to:
  - manage for resilient ecosystems that will endure a changing climate;
  - protect intact landscapes that provide critical wildlife habitat, clean air and water along with other benefits to communities;
  - and apply land health standards, based in part on Indigenous Knowledge.
- The rule continues to allow grazing, drilling and other extraction.

### Conclusion/Talking Points:

- BLM’s management of public lands has been wildly unbalanced.
- Conservation should be on equal ground with drilling, grazing and other extractive uses.



# Act Now for Public Lands

- It's time to turn the tide.