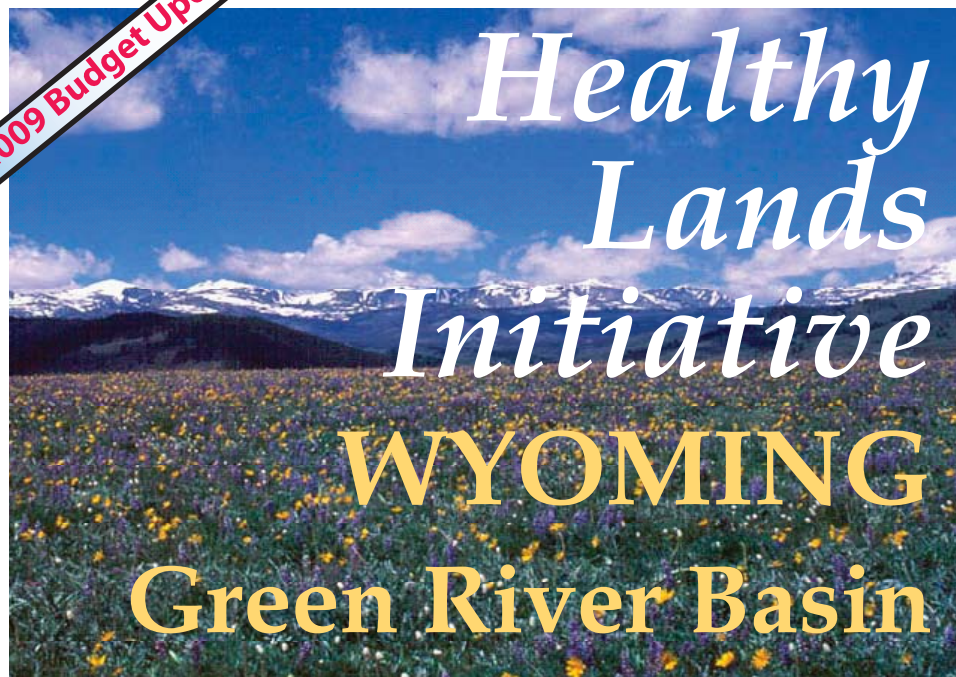




By the Numbers

Green River Basin, Southwest Wyoming

- Number of acres in the basin:
15 million
(The size of Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire combined)
- Number of homes that could be heated annually by natural gas production: **4 million**
- Estimated volume of recoverable natural gas in cubic feet: **83 trillion:**
- World-class wildlife:
Estimated **100,000 deer** and **100,000 pronghorn antelope**; **40,000 elk**; **8,000 moose**; **1,400 bighorn sheep**; and **151 non-game species** of greatest conservation need

Wyoming encompasses some of the highest-quality wildlife habitat in the Intermountain West. Sagebrush, mountain shrub, aspen, and riparian communities offer crucial habitat for deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, greater sage-grouse, and a variety of non-game species. Lands and waters in Southwest Wyoming also offer some of the country's most sought-after recreational opportunities, providing an important asset that attracts anglers, hunters, and other visitors. For many small rural communities, money spent by anglers and hunters is essential for long-term economic stability.

Geological Survey, USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, local conservation districts, and local counties.

Landscape Approach

The greatest wildlife conservation value is achieved when wildlife enhancement is conducted at a landscape scale. Landscapes are land areas composed of diverse habitat types that include winter range and migration corridors.

Meeting both our energy and land health goals requires integrated, landscape-scale habitat protections and resource management. Our initiative combines investments in habitat protection with policy improvements that will protect 800 species, including the sage-grouse.

Secretary Dirk Kempthorne

An Active Source of Natural Gas

Encompassing 15 million acres—roughly the size of Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire combined—the Green River Basin of Southwest Wyoming produces enough natural gas annually to heat 4 million homes. With approximately 23 trillion cubic feet of natural gas used annually in the U.S., the estimated 83 trillion cubic feet of recoverable natural gas in Southwest Wyoming will continue to account for one of the largest sources of natural gas in the U.S.

To ensure Southwest Wyoming's wildlife and habitat remain viable in areas facing development pressure, BLM, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.

What is the Healthy Lands Initiative?

Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne launched the Healthy Lands Initiative (HLI) in 2007 to accelerate land restoration, increase productivity, and improve the health of public lands in the Western United States. The goal of the Initiative is to preserve the diversity and productivity of public and private lands across the landscape. The Initiative will enable and encourage local BLM managers to set priorities across a broader scale and mitigate impacts to an array of resources in ways not previously available to them.

The President's 2009 budget includes an increase of \$10 million for HLI over the level enacted in Fiscal Year 2008. The effort has focused on landscape-level restoration effort on southwest Wyoming; northwest and southeast portions of New Mexico; south-central Idaho; southwest Colorado; Utah; and a three-corner area of Idaho, Oregon, and Nevada. In FY 2009, areas in northwest Colorado and parts of California would be added.



Access to a variety of habitat types and seasonal ranges within a landscape is essential for wildlife to find food and shelter and raise their young.

What We Know

The high demand for energy resources has caused an unprecedented surge in the intensity of natural gas development.

The combination of energy development and industrial and residential expansion, along with associated road building, drilling, pipelines, utility lines, and other human-generated activities, is occurring in wildlife habitat areas.

Although impact mitigation is required in energy development areas, a landscape-scale conservation action will better address natural resource issues in this vast area.

Role of Initiative Partners

- Conduct efficient, science-based species monitoring and habitat enhancement.
- Facilitate best reclamation and mitigation practices for areas affected by current natural gas development.
- Integrate existing data with new knowledge and technologies to forecast development of energy resources and assist in habitat conservation planning.
- Conduct habitat enhancement in all habitat types with a special focus on sagebrush, mountain shrub, aspen, and riparian communities.

Role of the WLCI

- Exchange information, data, and research findings among partners, industry, and stakeholders to improve habitat conditions and long-term viability of species at a landscape scale.
- Complement existing habitat reclamation and mitigation efforts.
- Broaden the understanding of the valuable Green River Basin ecosystem.

Funding Plans

In Wyoming, funding will be used for projects including vegetation treatments (sagebrush, aspen trees); water projects such as building or restoring water sources for wildlife; and improving riparian areas. Long-term funding may include state and Federal appropriations, special mitigation accounts, trust funds, non-governmental organization and industry contributions, other independent donations, and an endowment.

For additional information contact:

Bureau of Land Management

Wyoming State Office

Cindy Wertz, 307-775-6014

Cindy_Wertz@blm.gov

Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative

Renee Dana, Rock Springs Field Office

307-352-0227

Renee_Dana@blm.gov

