

BLM Socioeconomic Strategy

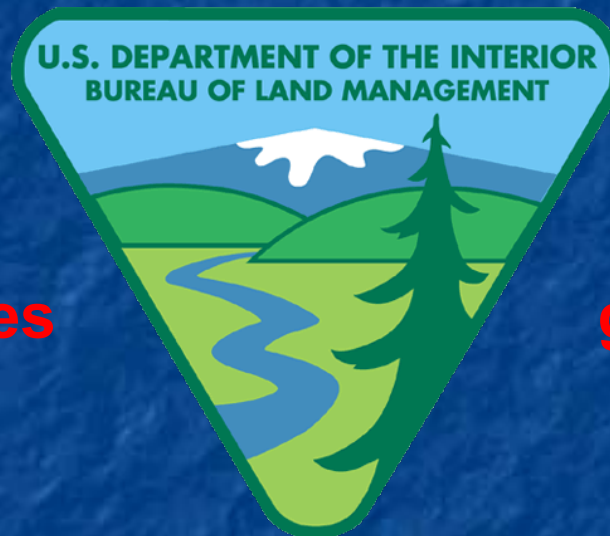
**Rob Winthrop
Senior Social Scientist, Washington Office
Bureau of Land Management**

**Federal Social Science Roundtable
January 10, 2011**

BLM's Need for Socioeconomics (aka the Social Sciences)?



Resource Management is People Management



Geography

places & landscapes

Economics

goods & choices

Anthropology & Sociology

communities & values

Understand the Interests and Needs of Diverse Publics



Value the Resources Under BLM's Management



Respond to Policy Challenges

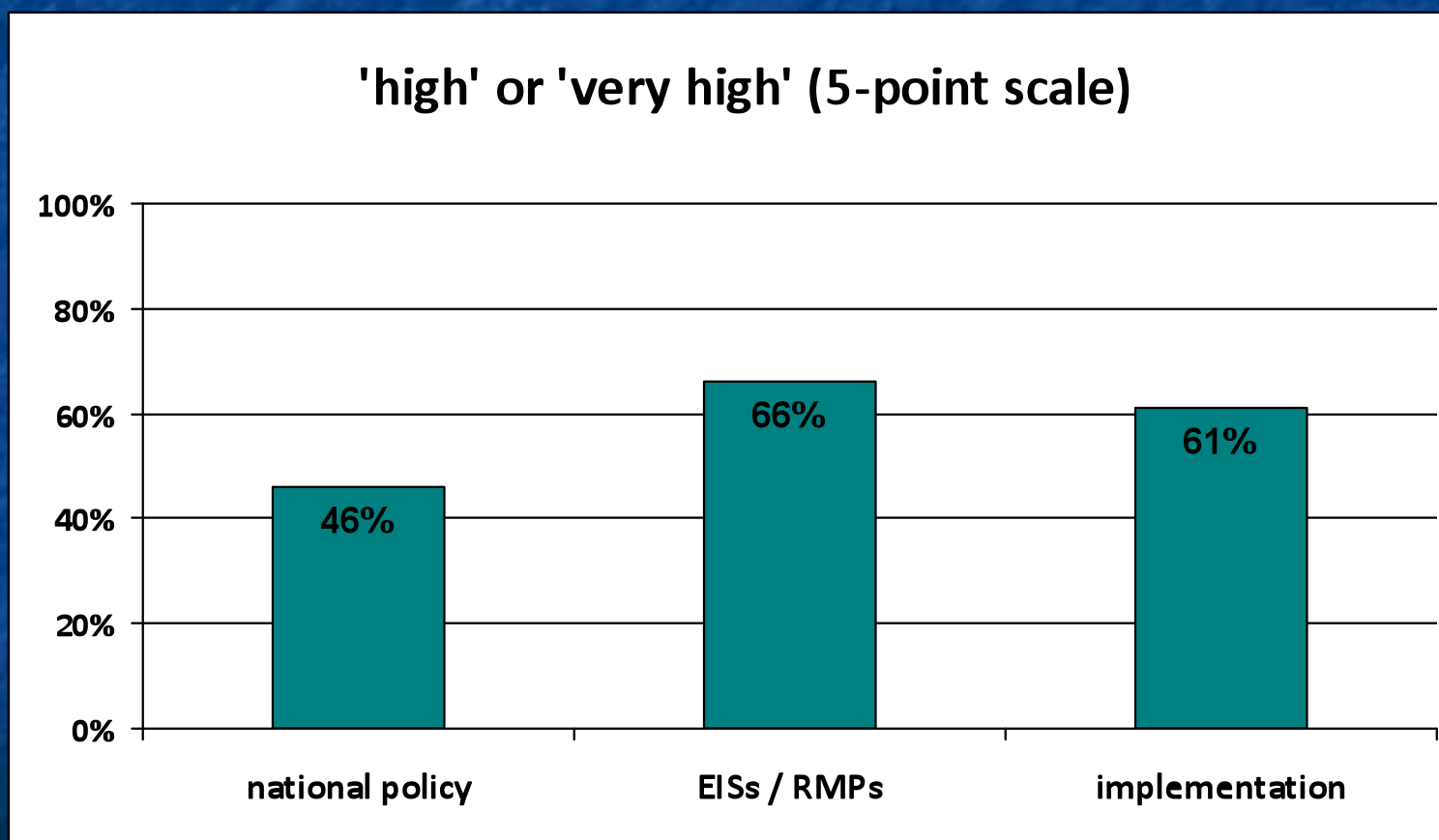
- How does the creation of NLCS units affect gateway businesses?
- How can the BLM plan for the impacts of urban growth?
- What are the costs and benefits of the grazing program?
- How do wind energy projects affect residential property values?
- What demographics characterize WH&B adoptees?



Changing Internal Context

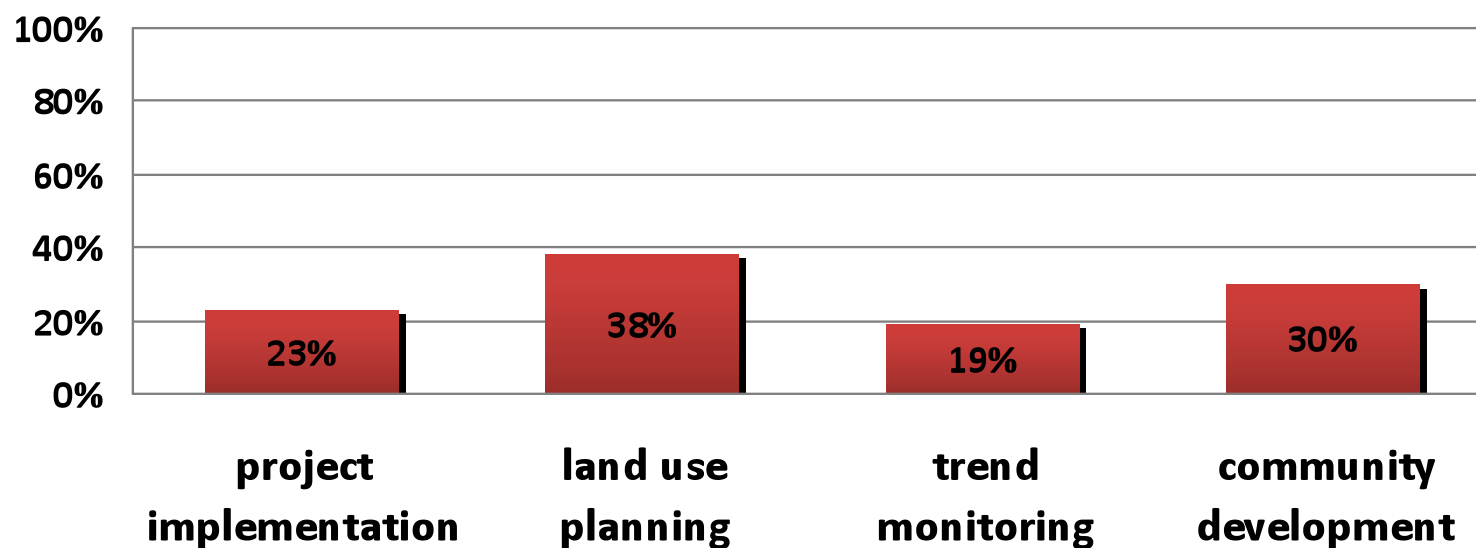
- Scarce skills problem (4 of 12 State Offices have S-E staff)
- Declining budgets
- Need to demonstrate BLM's national economic impact
- Higher standards for scientific research
- Need to show benefits of non-extractive uses
- Need to address climate change
- Use of landscape-scale assessments
- Emphasis on an ecosystem services framework

BLM Employees: Value of social science information for . . . ?



BLM Employees: How well is social science information used for . . . ?

'well' or 'very well' (5-point scale)



BLM Socioeconomic Strategies

1. Ensure that BLM's socioeconomic capabilities support policy mandates, management priorities, and program needs.
2. Manage BLM's internal and external socioeconomic capabilities to provide sound and cost-effective support for offices and programs.
3. Ensure that BLM staff can obtain and apply sound and relevant socioeconomic information.

**1. Support policy mandates,
management priorities, and
program needs**

Meeting program
needs

Understanding
constituents

Informing
constituents

Supporting policy
mandates

Strengthening
community
development

**2. Manage BLM's internal
and external
socioeconomic capabilities**

Internal
capabilities

**Steering committee
SLT meetings
Program meetings**

Support and
funding

**3. Obtain and apply
sound socioeconomic
information**

Policy and
guidance

Quality assurance

Training

Using existing
knowledge

Tool development

1. Support policy mandates, management priorities, and program needs

Meeting program needs

Understanding constituents

Informing constituents

Supporting policy mandates

Strengthening community development

2. Manage BLM's internal and external socioeconomic capabilities

Internal capabilities

External partnerships

Socioeconomic priorities

3. Obtain and apply sound socioeconomic information

Policy and guidance

Quality assurance

Training

Building existing knowledge

Tool development

DOI Economic Report
BLM Socioeconomic Report

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**2. Manage BLM's internal
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Internal
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External
partnerships

Socioeconomic
practitioner
support

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**Urban Growth
Modeling
Ecosystem Services
Pilot**



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**Improve contracting
Build federal agency
partnerships
Facilitate low- or no-
cost academic
research**

Partnering with Other Agencies

- Provide support to field offices (USGS, USFS)
- Prepare annual DOI Economic Report (USGS, USFS)
- Ecosystem services pilot (BLM & USGS)
- Growth modeling pilot (BLM & USGS)
- Expand Economic Profile System (share funding with USFS)
- ASPN – web advisor on socio-economic methods (share funding with USGS, USFS, NPS)



**1. Support policy mandates,
management priorities, and
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Meeting program
needs

Understanding
constituents

**Establish zoned
socioeconomic
positions**

Strengthening
community
development

**2. Manage BLM's internal
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External
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Socioeconomic
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Support and
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Policy and
guidance

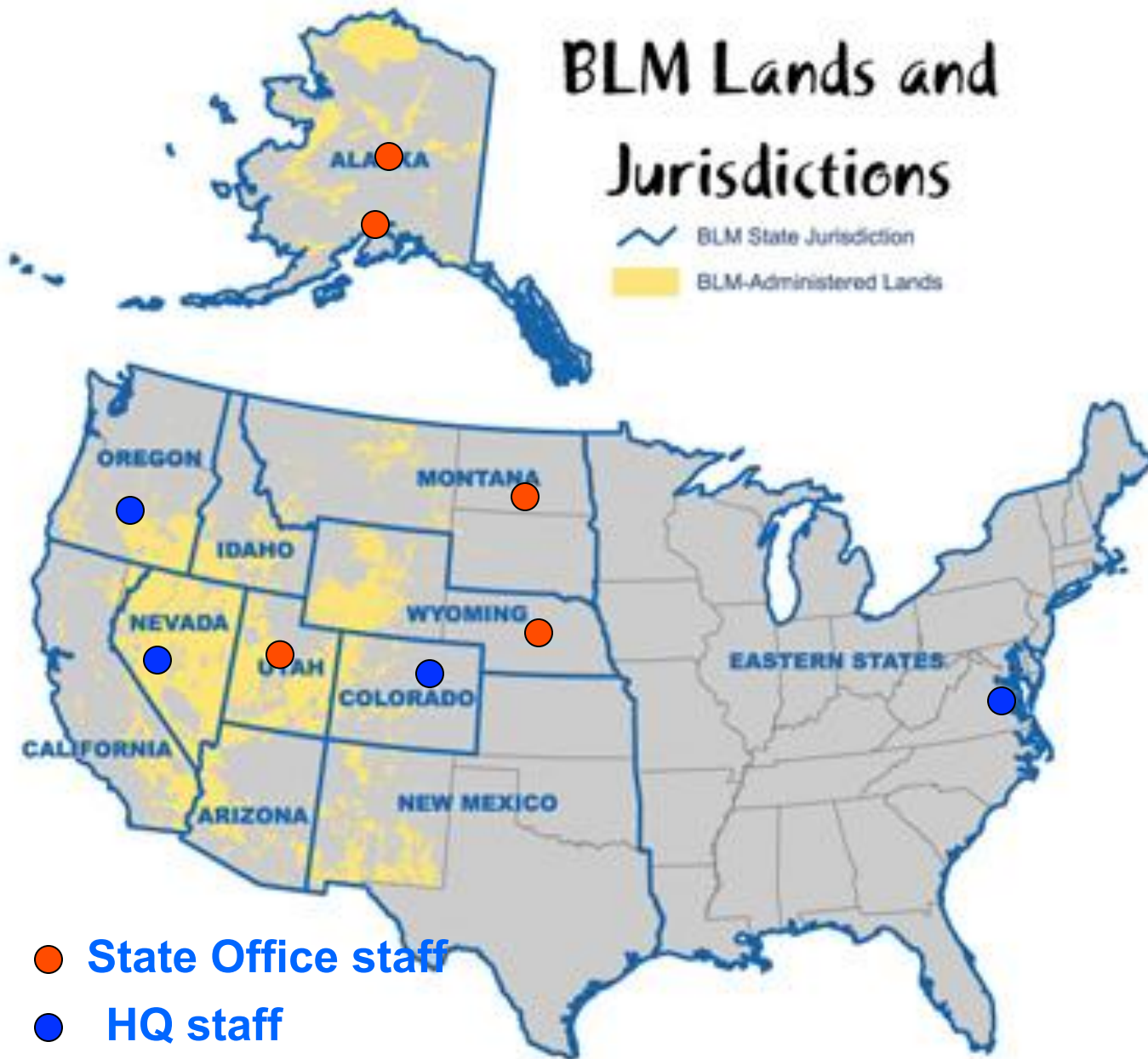
Quality assurance

Training

Using existing
knowledge

Tool development

BLM Lands and Jurisdictions



**1. Support policy mandates,
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Meeting program
needs

**Online introductory
training
Live classes
Socioeconomic
Sharepoint**

Supporting policy
mandates

Strengthening
community
development

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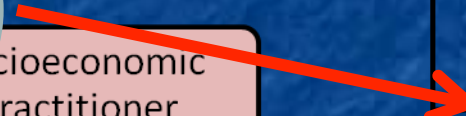
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The Human Landscape: NTC Online Training Modules

READING THE HUMAN LANDSCAPE
APPLYING SOCIAL SCIENCE TO BLM'S MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

Chapters

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Describing Social and Economic Change

Chapter 2 of 5 Slide 4 of 13

Transcript Notes Resources

Another significant trend is population growth, especially in the West. From 1990 to 2000 the West grew faster than any other region in the country. During that time the population increased by 19.7 percent – an increase of 10.4 million people. The Bureau of the Census estimates that between the years 2000 and 2030 seven out of ten of the fastest growing states in the country will be western states. Nevada will

Help Home AO A

**Population Change
1990-2002**

Declining Population
.01% - 10% Growth
10% - 30% Growth
.30% - 60% Growth
Over 60% Growth

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1. Support policy mandates, management priorities, and program needs

Meeting program needs

Better utilize the interest, socioeconomic training and local knowledge of BLM staff

Supporting policy mandates

Strengthening community development

2. Manage BLM's internal and external socioeconomic capabilities

Internal capabilities

External partnerships

Socioeconomic practitioner support

Support and funding

3. Obtain and apply sound socioeconomic information

Policy and guidance

Quality assurance

Training

Using existing knowledge

Tool development



Staff Knowledge and Interest

- Nearly 41% of BLM staff have some coursework in the social sciences; 10% have a degree.
- Many field office staff have deep knowledge of local social and economic systems.
- Other than by adding staff, how should the BLM enhance the use of socioeconomic research?
 - Train existing BLM employees (328 / 24%)
 - Contract with outside agencies (129 / 9%)
 - Use surveys to measure opinion & uses (104 / 8%)
 - Increase awareness of social science (78 / 6%)

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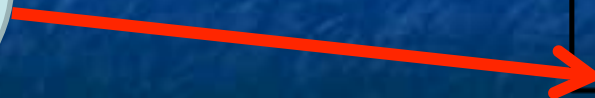
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EPS-HDT
ASPN
HD.gov



Next Steps

- With guidance from steering committee, revise and implement a short-term work plan
- Complete a draft Socioeconomic Strategic Plan
 - Current capabilities: strengths and weaknesses
 - Program needs
 - Goals, strategies, and priorities
- Circulate plan for internal and external review
 - State Offices
 - Resource Advisory Councils, National Association of Counties, commodity and environmental groups

Questions and Comments?

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