

MULTI-SCALE MONITORING FOR ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT: THE BLM AIM STRATEGY

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ABSTRACT:

The “Bureau of Land Management Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring Strategy for Integrated Renewable Resources Management” (BLM AIM Strategy) provides high-quality information about ecosystem conditions and trends for decisionmaking. This information is essential for the BLM to fulfill its multiple-use mission and sustain the diverse uses and benefits of public lands. The AIM approach to monitoring features five elements: 1) a standard set of core quantitative indicators and methods, enabling easy comparison of measurements in different places and over time; 2) a defensible and statistically valid way of selecting monitoring plots that informs resource conditions at multiple scales; 3) integration with remote sensing, providing a bird’s-eye view of conditions across the landscape; 4) electronic data capture and management, streamlining information access for BLM and our partners; and 5) a structured implementation process built on management questions and an understanding of ecosystems. Demonstration projects from Arizona to Alaska have applied the AIM approach to monitoring to a variety of management issues at a multiple scales using field, remote sensing, and integrated approaches. Information derived from AIM is collected once but can be used many times to enhance understanding of the structure and function of BLM lands and guide BLM adaptive management.

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