



BLM NEWS

New Mexico Oklahoma Texas Kansas

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BLM Distributes Almost \$134 Million in "PILT" Checks to Local Governments for Tax-Exempt Lands, New Mexico Receives over 12 Million Dollars

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on September 21 sent payments for 2000 totaling \$134 million to approximately 1,977 local government units across the United States in accordance with the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Act. Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt announced that this year's payment is nearly \$9 million more than last year's total, which was \$125 million.

The BLM, an agency of the Interior Department, distributes the PILT payments to eligible units of local governments each year. The payments are intended to offset the loss of tax revenue to States and localities caused by the presence of tax-exempt Federal land within their jurisdictions.

According to BLM Director Tom Fry, PILT payments carry out an especially important role for the BLM, which manages more land than any other Federal agency. "Through PILT payments, local governments carry out such vital services such as firefighting and police protection, and construction of public schools and roads," Fry said.

The annual PILT payments are made for tax-exempt Federal lands administered by the BLM, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (all agencies of the Interior Department), the U.S. Forest Service (part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture), and for Federal water projects and some military installations.

Congress appropriates PILT payments each year. The BLM allocates according to a formula in the PILT Act that includes population and the amount of Federal land within an affected county. These payments are in addition to other Federal revenues (such as, livestock grazing, and timber harvesting) that the Federal Government transfers to the counties. The BLM has distributed more than two billion dollars in PILT payments to local governments since these payments began in 1977.

BLM, New Mexico State Office, is the regional office for Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas.

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All States (except Rhode Island) -- plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands -- are receiving PILT funds for Fiscal Year 1999, which ends September 30. The States with counties that collectively receive the largest amounts are: California, \$14,277,119; **New Mexico, \$12,323,237**; Arizona, \$11,005,635; Utah, \$10,411,528; Colorado, 10,296,073; Montana, \$10,109,778; and Alaska, \$9,086,284.

Below is the complete list of 2000 PILT payments by State:

Alabama	399,987	Montana	10,109,778
Alaska	9,086,284	Nebraska	378,877
Arizona:	11,005,635	Nevada	7,604,840
Arkansas	1,851,402	New Hampshire	557,512
California	14,277,119	New Jersey	38,401
Colorado	10,296,073	New Mexico	12,323,237
Connecticut	12,257	New York	52,803
Delaware	6,021	North Carolina	1,351,065
District of Columbia	5,490	North Dakota	632,253
Florida	1,731,060	Ohio	324,143
Georgia	1,003,771	Oklahoma	898,869
Guam	1,328	Oregon	4,511,350
Hawaii	16,080	Pennsylvania	183,595
Idaho	8,825,194	Puerto Rico	13,153
Illinois	363,656	Rhode Island	0
Indiana	201,418	South Carolina	372,837
Iowa	142,091	South Dakota	1,478,669
Kansas	357,568	Tennessee	809,585
Kentucky	810,928	Texas.....	1,564,291
Louisiana	169,427	Utah	10,411,528
Maine	104,582	Vermont	280,732
Maryland	54,411	Virgin Island	10,963
Massachusetts	44,806	Virginia	1,293,895
Michigan	1,353,334	Washington	4,225,218
Minnesota	925,191	West Virginia	933,680
Mississippi	537,764	Wisconsin	350,894
Missouri	1,373,666	Wyoming	8,318,110

Total: \$133,986,821

The BLM, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages more land – 264 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western States including Alaska. The Bureau, which has a budget of \$1.4 billion and a workforce of about 8,700 employees, also administers more than 700 million acres of sub-surface minerals estate throughout the nation. The BLM preserves open space by managing the public lands for multiple uses, including outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, and mining, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources found on the public lands.