

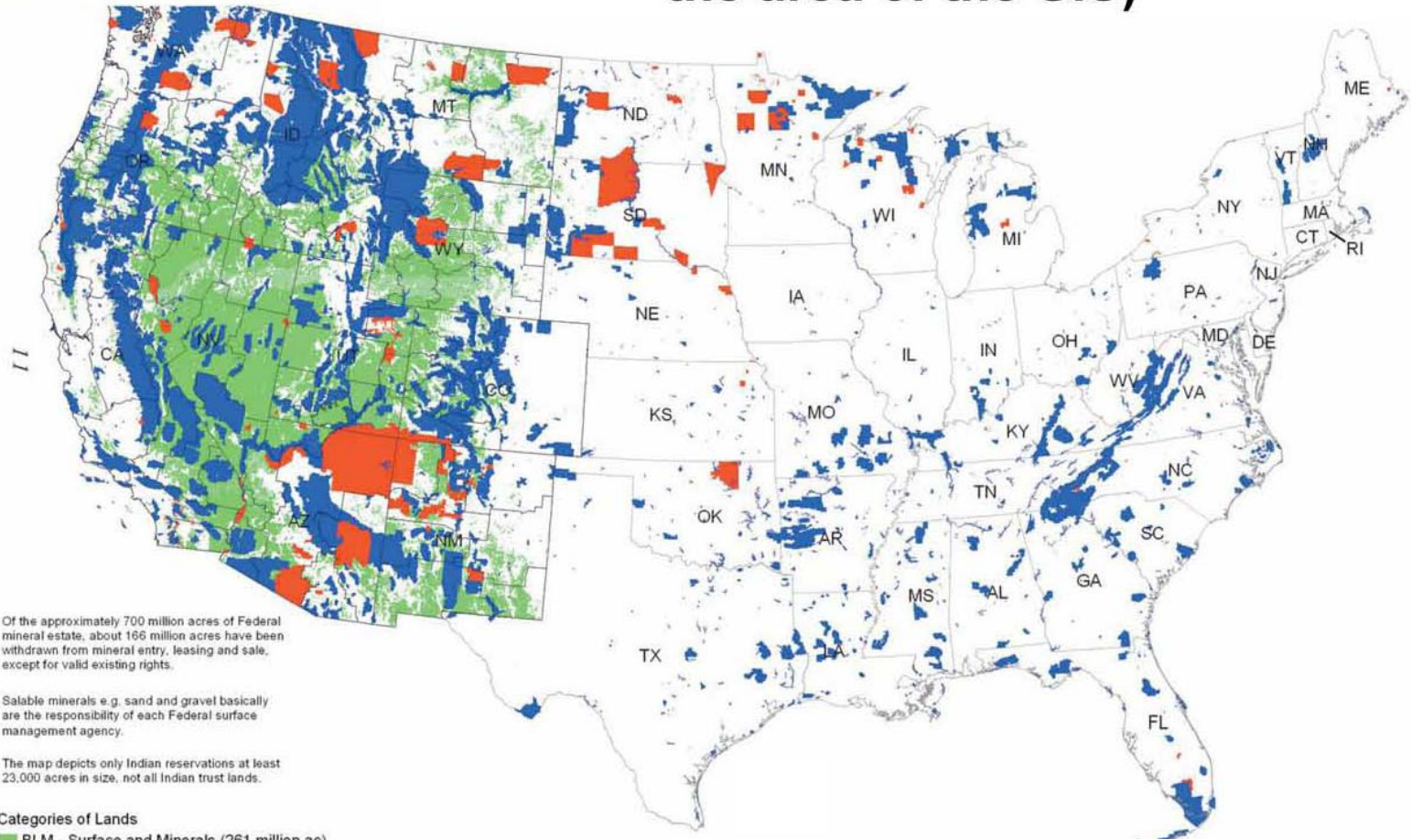
# BLM's Role in Uranium In Situ Recovery Projects on Mining Claims

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# BLM's Role in Mineral Leasing

- BLM manages 750 million acres of Federal Minerals
- BLM managed mineral development
  - citizens may lease uranium on acquired lands or
  - citizens may stake mining claims on unpatented lands
  - only mining claims will be discussed today

# BLM Manages more than 700 million acres of Federal mineral estate (29% of the area of the U.S)



- \* Of the approximately 700 million acres of Federal mineral estate, about 166 million acres have been withdrawn from mineral entry, leasing and sale, except for valid existing rights.
- \* Salable minerals e.g. sand and gravel basically are the responsibility of each Federal surface management agency.
- \* The map depicts only Indian reservations at least 23,000 acres in size, not all Indian trust lands.

#### Categories of Lands

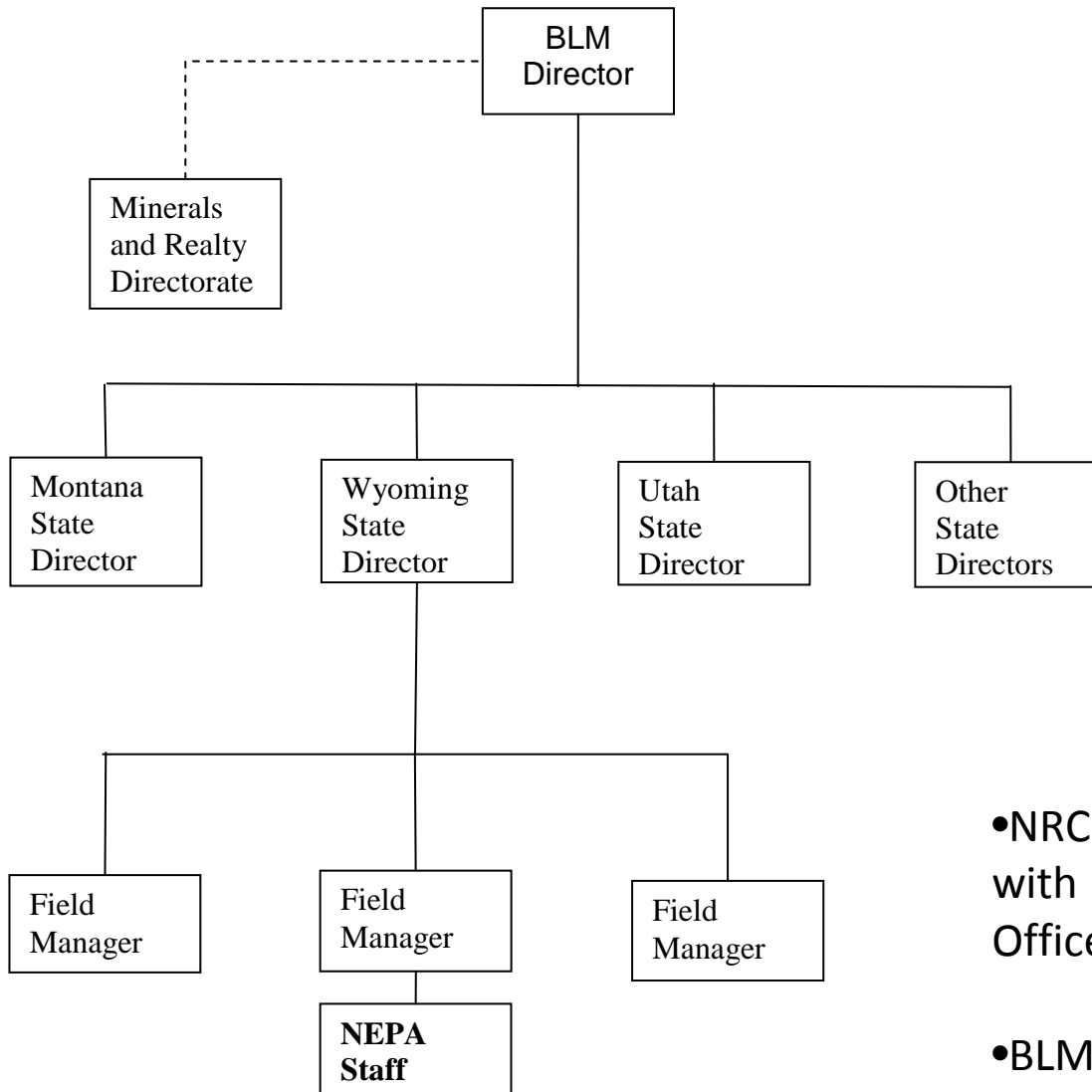
- BLM - Surface and Minerals (261 million ac)
- Other Federal Lands - Minerals (380 million ac)
- Non-Federal Surface (includes 58 million ac of Split - Estate Federal Minerals)
- Indian Trust Lands (56 million ac) except Mineral Operations for Osage Minerals
- ⊞ BLM Administration Boundaries

BLM manages all Federal minerals onshore, regardless of Surface Management Agency

# Mining Claim Regulation – Surface Use

- **Casual use** – negligible disturbance not requiring mechanized equipment nor notification of BLM – No NEPA
- **Notice level operations** – disturb 5 acres or less – requires notification of BLM and reclamation bonding only – No NEPA
- **Plan of Operations** – Larger surface disturbances or other circumstances – BLM approval, EA/EIS and full Reclamation Bonding required

# Simplified Org Chart Showing BLM Chain of Command



- NRC NEPA staff interact directly with BLM Field Office and State Offices on specific EIS issues

- BLM WO available to assist with issues as needed.

# BLM-NRC MOU Internal Communications

- BLM distributed the MOU as a .pdf to its offices as soon as it was signed
- BLM Mining Law Quarterly Conference calls include discussions of MOU implementation
- BLM and NRC are cooperating in industry outreach through a series of meetings and workshops in Wyoming and Colorado.
- BLM is providing information at its booth at the Society of Mining Engineers meeting this week - other venues are contemplated

# The Way Forward

- BLM Field Offices will be cooperators on future NEPA documents where possible
- To take maximum advantage of cost and schedule efficiencies, Applicants must
  - understand the process
  - be responsible for timing their applications and responses to both Agencies' and the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's needs and requirements
- Application and information-response timing issues frequently cause unnecessary schedule slippage
- BLM also has an MOU with Wyoming DEQ which works integrally with BLM to approve mine plans

- The Bureau of Land Management is pleased that we have an MOU with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- We look forward to increased coordination and cooperation with the NRC in the future as we work together to deliver safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible energy to America

Thank You!