

Introduction to the ASSESSMENT, INVENTORY, and MONITORING STRATEGY

The goal of the Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring Strategy is to reach across programs, jurisdictions, stakeholders, and agencies to provide key information for decisionmakers that can be collected once and used many times.



IMPORTANCE OF INFORMATION

Healthy, sustainable ecosystems support the diverse multiple uses and benefits of public lands. Thus, to fulfill its multiple-use mission, it is essential for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to gather information to determine ecosystem conditions and how they are changing over time. This knowledge (or monitoring information) is necessary to guide and justify land uses,

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AIM.landscapetoolbox.org provides guidance for every step of the AIM process, from the initial planning through data collection to data analysis.

policy actions, and adaptive management decisions.

Consistent data that can serve many monitoring objectives and can also be aggregated for use across multiple scales of management is a valuable asset for the BLM. The BLM's Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring (AIM) Strategy, which was completed in 2011 in coordination with other agencies, is designed to provide this information.

BENEFITS OF USING AIM

AIM Element	Benefit
Standard set of core quantitative indicators and methods	Standardized measurements allow easy comparison of data collected in different places and over time. By collecting the same core data across the BLM, the data can be used for many different purposes at many different scales.
Statistically valid sampling design	Statistically valid methods used to study lands enable data to inform land management decisions at many different scales, from individual grazing allotments to ecoregion and national levels. This also allows the BLM to combine data with other agencies that use statistically valid methods.
Integration with remote sensing	Remotely capturing information (for example, using satellite imagery) gives us a bird's-eye view of conditions across the landscape. Using this information increases the efficiency of BLM data collection.
Electronic data capture and management	Once monitoring data is collected for an area, it is stored in a central database and can be easily accessed and used, saving the BLM time and money.
Implementation process	A monitoring program built on management questions and an understanding of ecosystems will provide relevant and timely information to the decisionmaker.



AIM PROVIDES INFORMATION

The AIM Strategy provides a framework for the BLM to quantitatively assess the condition, trend, amount, location, and spatial pattern of natural resources on the nation's public lands. Monitoring information collected following the AIM Strategy can be used many times, for many reasons, across many programs, and in conjunction with other agencies. To ensure the AIM Strategy is applicable across the BLM's diverse management programs and ecosystem types, it was tested within energy, grazing, sage-grouse, wild horse and burro, postfire restoration, and other areas in multiple states.

By using standardized monitoring indicators and methods for collecting this data, land managers have a basis from which to (1) adaptively manage resources in order to achieve management goals and objectives, (2) improve understanding of the ecosystem, and (3) adjust monitoring efforts as necessary using a well-documented and consistent approach.

BLM CORE TERRESTRIAL INDICATORS

The standardized terrestrial data measurements (or indicators) collected under the AIM Strategy include:

- Bare ground
- Vegetation composition
- Plant species of management concern
- Nonnative, invasive plant species
- Vegetation height
- Canopy gaps



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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE SEE:

<http://AIM.landscapetoolbox.org>

BLM Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring Strategy for Integrated Renewable Resources Management

BLM Core Terrestrial Indicators and Methods, Tech Note 440

AIM National Aquatic Monitoring Framework, Tech Reference 1735-1

BLM CORE AQUATIC INDICATORS



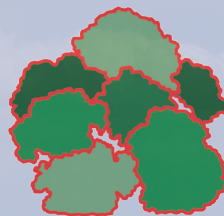
The standardized aquatic data measurements (or indicators) collected under the AIM Strategy include:

- Acidity (pH), salinity, and temperature
- Pool dimensions, streambed substrate, bank stability and angle, and floodplain connectivity
- Macroinvertebrates, riparian vegetation cover and structure, and canopy cover

IMPORTANCE OF STANDARDIZED MONITORING

Using standard methods to collect data is just as important as a consistent set of indicators because minor differences in methods can make measurements incompatible. For example, for the same area, canopy cover measurements will be higher than foliar cover measurements.

Foliar Cover



Canopy cover



A consistent set of data collection methods are adopted under the AIM Strategy, allowing the BLM to combine and compare data collected in different areas.