

Public Lands Timeline

Instructions: Using the *History of Public Lands* PDF, research the key question for your assigned group and topics listed below. Create a poster for the classroom timeline using the information you find. Include the title of your group, information from each of the bullet points, photos, and any other interesting facts your group found. When it is time to present, one member from each group will stand at the front of the class holding the posters in order, creating a timeline.

Group 1: Where did the public lands come from?

- Key Question: How did the United State acquire the public lands owned collectively by the American People?
 - Land ownership prior to contact with Europeans
 - Lands relinquished by the Colonies
 - Lands purchased from other countries
 - Original total acreage of public domain lands

Group 2: What happened to the original public lands?

- Key Question: How did the United States transfer most of the original public lands to state, private, and other ownership?
 - Dividing the original acreage of public domain lands
 - Encouraging settlement in the West
 - The General Land Office (GLO)
 - Transferring public lands out of the public domain (various land grants)
 - Stockraising Homestead Act
 - Land transfers to other Federal Agencies

Group 3: Federal Lands Agencies

- Key Question: How did the Bureau of Land Management (an agency within the department of the interior) become responsible for administering its remaining 245 million acres of public domain lands, now known as the *National System of Public Lands*?
 - National Forest System
 - National Park System
 - National Wildlife Refuge System
 - Department of Defense
 - Land transfers to Native Americans

Group 4: Emergence of the BLM

- Key Question: What did livestock grazing look like before and after the Taylor Grazing Act and establishment of the BLM?
 - What was the remaining acreage of public land primarily used for?
 - What problems arose from the Stockraising Homestead Act? (“first come, first served.”)
 - The Taylor Grazing Act
 - The U.S. Grazing Service
 - When and why was the BLM established?

Group 5: New Laws, New Uses, New Identity for the BLM

- Key Question: How does federal ownership and management of public domain lands benefit Americans?
 - Off-highway Vehicles (OHV)
 - Wilderness Act
 - National Environmental Policy
 - Wild Free-roaming Horses and Burros Act
 - Endangered Species Act
 - What does the future hold for public lands?