

# Public Lands

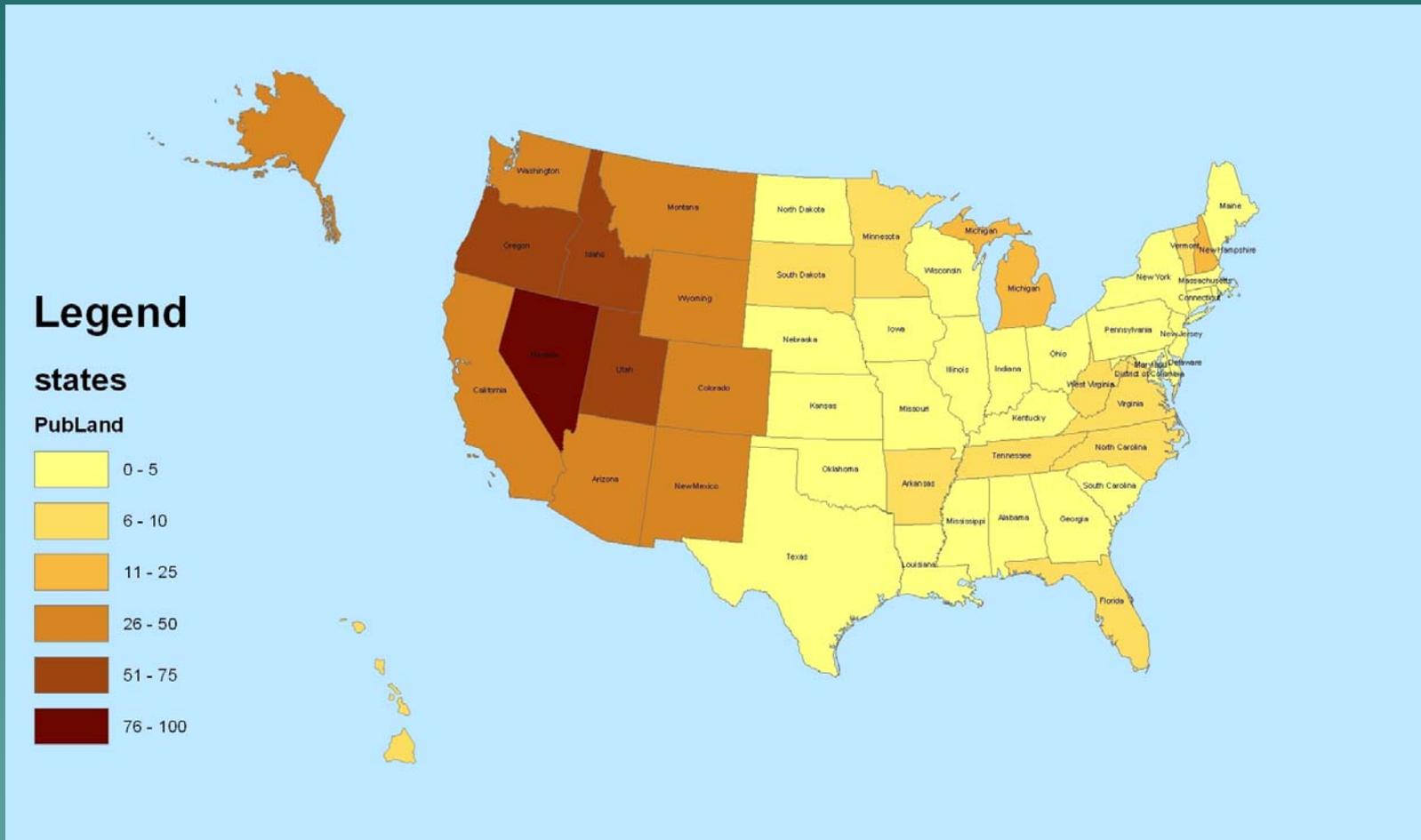
# Public Lands

- ◆ What are public lands?
- ◆ How do public lands fit into environmental policy?
  - Clash of public interests
    - ◆ Environmental protection
    - ◆ Natural Resource Commodity Production
  - Clash of public interest vs. private interest
    - ◆ Natural Resource Commodity Production
    - ◆ Multiple Use
- ◆ Why has it been so difficult to bring sound environmental management to public lands?

# Federal Land

- ◆ Roughly 30% of U.S. land is owned by the federal government

# Federal Public Lands



# US Federally Managed Public Lands

	Surface Acres Managed
Dept. of Interior	
BLM	262
USFWS	93
NPS	84
Dept. of Agric.	
USFS	151
DOD/USACE	12
TOTAL	602

# National Park Service

## ◆ BACKGROUND

- 1832 Began with George Catlin's vision to preserve the western wilderness
- 1864 Congress Donates Yosemite to California for a state park
- 1872 Yellowstone is the first national park
- 1916 President Wilson signs legislation creating the NPS
  - ◆ "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

# National Park Service

## Environmental Issues

- ◆ Too many visitors
  - Trash
  - Automobile congestion
  - Infrastructure
- ◆ Multiple Use
  - Snow Mobiles & other ORVs
    - ◆ Noise & air pollution
    - ◆ Harassment of Wildlife
- ◆ Porous boundaries & Disobedient Wildlife
- ◆ Inholder Rights

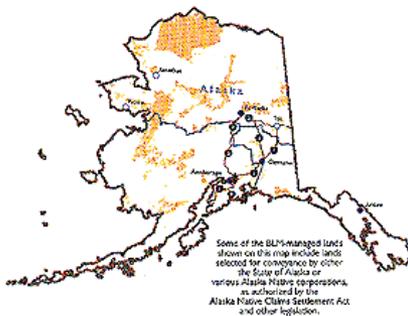
# Bureau of Land Management

## ◆ Background

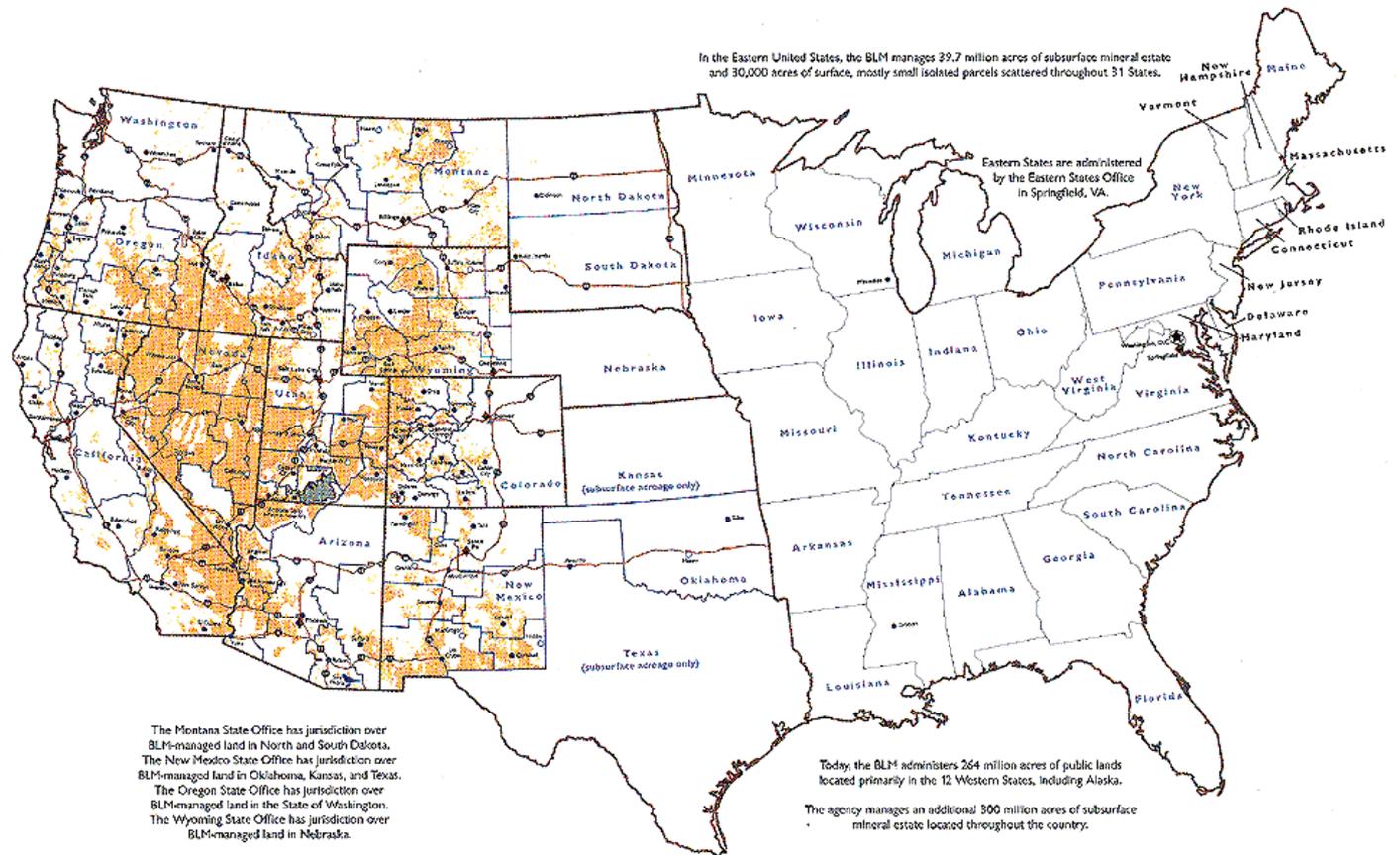
- 1812 Congress establishes General Land Office (Dept. of Treasury)
  - ◆ To dispose of lands acquired from Spain, France, others
- 1934 Taylor Grazing Act established Grazing Service
- 1946 Grazing Service and General Land Office merged to create BLM

# BLM Lands

## Public Lands Managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)



In the Eastern United States, the BLM manages 39.7 million acres of subsurface mineral estate and 30,000 acres of surface, mostly small isolated parcels scattered throughout 31 States.



- BLM-Managed Lands
- BLM Headquarters
- BLM State Office Locations
- BLM Field Office Locations
- BLM Field Station Locations
- BLM National Training Center
- BLM National Centers
- Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area Interpretive Center
- National Interagency Fire Center
- National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center
- Anasazi Heritage Center
- San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area Project Office
- BLM State Office Jurisdictions
- BLM Field Office Boundaries
- State Boundaries
- Major Highways
- Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

# Bureau of Land Management

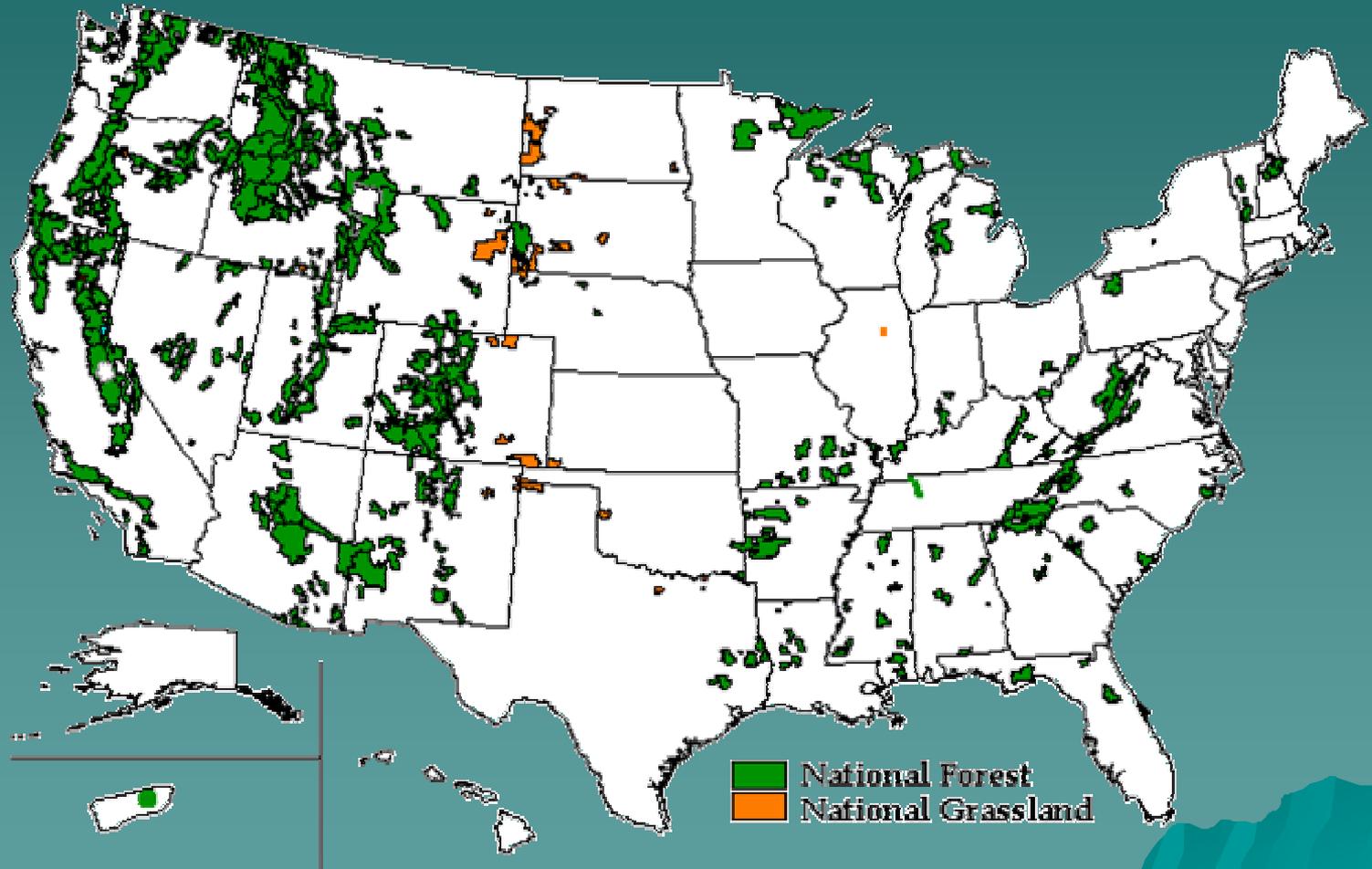
## Environmental Issues

- ◆ Grazing Impacts
  - 170 million acres (+100 million acres USFS)
  - Rangeland vegetation
    - ◆ Overgrazing
    - ◆ Invasive species
  - Riparian destruction
  - Wildlife
    - ◆ Predator & Pest “control”
- ◆ Mining
  - Toxic waste pollution
- ◆ Energy Extraction
- ◆ Multiple Use
  - ORVs

# National Forests

- ◆ US Forest Service (Dept. of Agric.)
  - 93 million acres
- ◆ BLM (Dept. of Interior)
  - 100 million acres
- ◆ Sustained Yield, Multiple Use, & Ecology

# National Forests

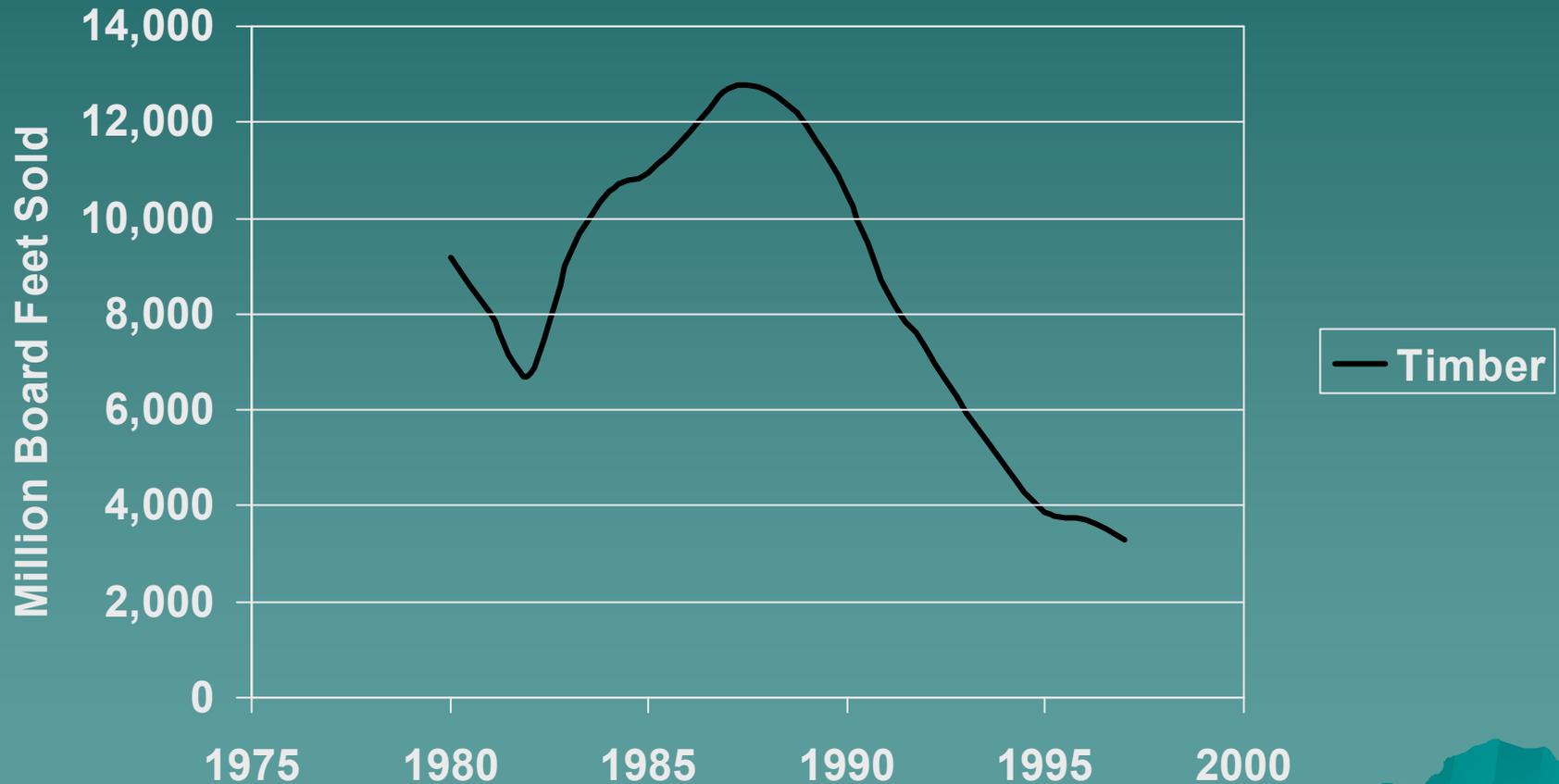


# National Forests

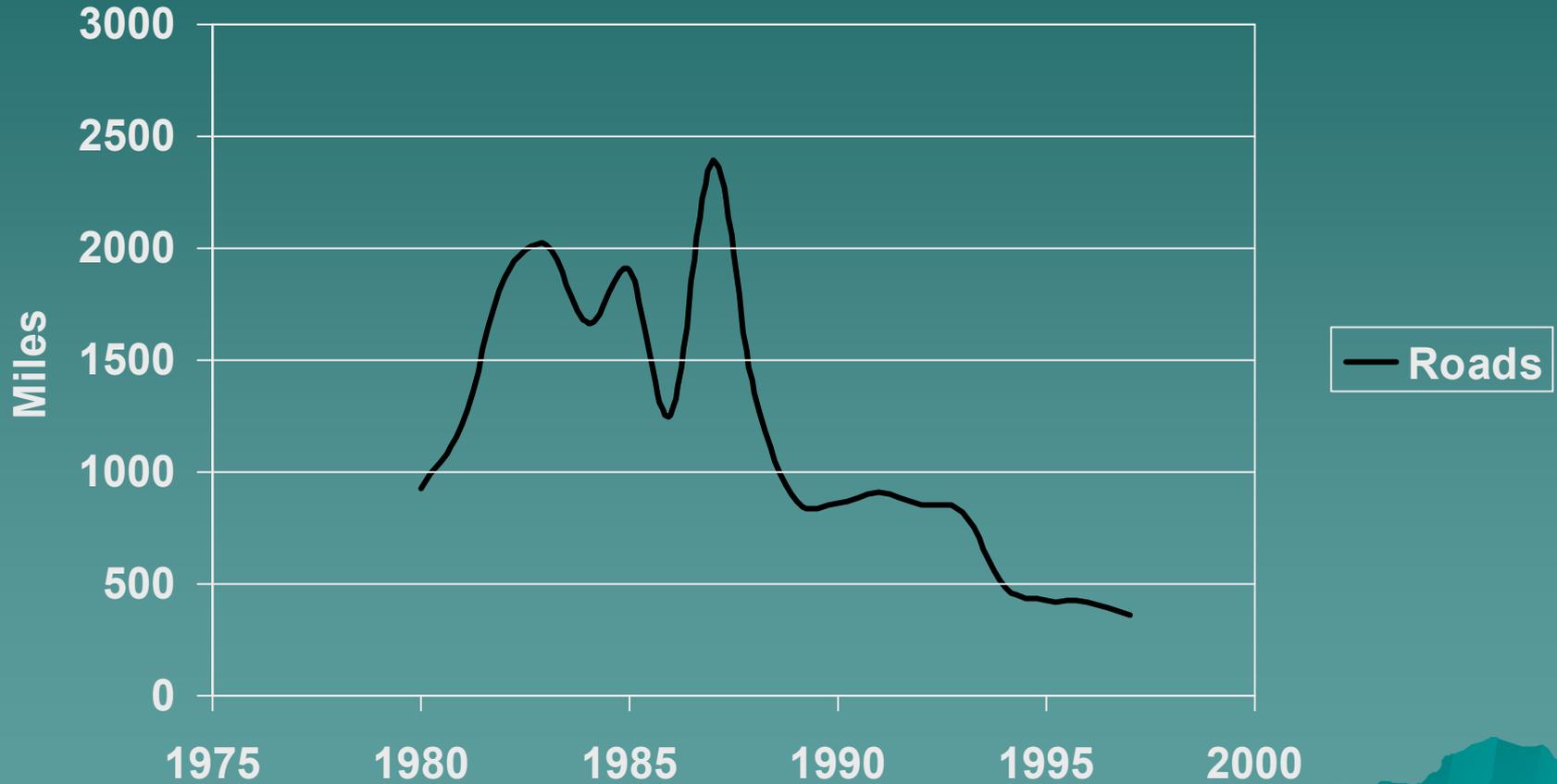
## Environmental Issues

- ◆ Timber vs. Wilderness
  - 1976 Roadless Area Review & Eval I
    - ◆ 12 million acres (of 54 million) to remain wilderness
      - i.e., roadless
  - 1978 RARE II
    - ◆ 16 million acres to remain wilderness
    - ◆ Increased multiple use
  - 1990s (Clinton)
    - ◆ 58 million acres to remain wilderness
      - 30% of national forests
      - A week before leaving office
- ◆ Endangered Species & Watershed Protection
- ◆ Multiple Use
  - ORVs

# National Forest Timber Yield



# National Forest Road Construction



# National Forests

- ◆ Timber Production vs. Wilderness Preservation
  - Lumber for national economy
  - Jobs & financing for “timber communities”
- ◆ Northern Spotted Owl Case

# National Wildlife Refuges

- ◆ 1871 Congress creates Commission of Fisheries
- ◆ 1885 Bureau of Biological Survey (Dept of Agriculture)
  - Birds and mammals
- ◆ 1940 BBS and BF combined in Dept of Interior → USFWS
- ◆ Map

# National Wildlife Refuges

- ◆ Environmental Issues
  - Multiple Use
  - Energy Extraction
  - Fishing/Hunting
  - Mining

# Wise Use Groups

- ◆ Spawned by the success of the Environmental Movement
- ◆ Blue Ribbon Coalition
  - Advocates access for motorized vehicles on public lands
- ◆ Center for Defense of Free Enterprise
  - Advocates property rights and free enterprise in opposition to government regulation & interference
- ◆ How Many?

# DoD/DoE

## Environmental Issues

- ◆ Training & Operations
  - Endangered Species
- ◆ Water & Soil Pollution
  - Chemical
  - Radiological
- ◆ Secrecy
- ◆ Seeking legislation to be exempt from:
  - Clean Air Act
  - Clean Water Act
  - Endangered Species Act
  - RCRA
  - Superfund

# Questions

- ◆ Why has it been so difficult to bring sound environmental management to public lands?
  - History
  - Interest groups vs. public apathy
    - ◆ Perceived as a local issue
  - Multiple Agencies Oversee Land
    - ◆ Agency culture
    - ◆ Agency “capture”
  - Multiple Government Authorities
    - ◆ 33% of BLM royalties go to state government
    - ◆ 20% of USFS receipts go to county & local government
  - Multiple Use Conflicts

# Questions

- ◆ Why was it possible to achieve progress in the spotted owl case?
  - ESA, single over-riding law
  - Public engagement & national attention

# Questions

# Weapons In Policy Wars

- ◆ Using laws (riders)
- ◆ Using the rules
- ◆ Judicial review of admin. Decisions – law suits
- ◆ Direct action
- ◆ Electoral Politics
- ◆ Science
- ◆ Public relations
- ◆ Organization & mobilization (wise use)
- ◆ Slapp suits
- ◆ Violence