The U.S. Geological Survey's digital database of surface and coal owner-ship (USGS Fact Sheet FS-012-98) contains data on coal resources. The database includes information on coal quality, coal thickness, structure, and other parameters generated from geologic investigations. Integrating this information with policy makers and planners in decision making multiple use of Federal lands and coal resource development.

The total coal resource in the region is estimated at 5.5 billion tons, with 3.6 billion tons identified as Federal coal. About 30 percent of this total, or about 330 million tons, came from Federal lands. (See USGS Fact Sheet FS–011–01.)

The table below shows statistics concerning Federal land and federally administered coal in the seven priority assessment units in Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico. 1997 Federal Coal Production from States in the Colorado Plateau Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Total Coal (in millions of short tons)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>22,292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>9,432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>6,029</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table below shows statistics concerning Federal land and federally administered coal in the Colorado Plateau region:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRIORITY ASSESSMENT UNITS</th>
<th>LAND ADMINISTERED</th>
<th>FEDERAL COAL AREA</th>
<th>FEDERAL COAL PARCEL</th>
<th>FEDERAL COAL TONNAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coal Field</td>
<td>30%†</td>
<td>80%†</td>
<td>60%†</td>
<td>60%†</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Federal</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Federally Owned Coal, Federal Lands, and Coal Quality in the Colorado Plateau Region:

- Includes all Federal coal production from Wyoming, Montana, and Utah (the Colorado Plateau region—East, West, and New Mexico) (see table below).
- Includes all the Federal coal production from Wyoming, Montana, and Utah (the Colorado Plateau region—East, West, and New Mexico) (see table below).

The total coal resource in the region is estimated at 5.5 billion tons, with 3.6 billion tons identified as Federal coal. About 30 percent of this total, or about 330 million tons, came from Federal lands. (See USGS Fact Sheet FS–011–01.)

The table below shows statistics concerning Federal land and federally administered coal in the seven priority assessment units in Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico. The goal of the assessment was to identify and characterize major coal resources that will supply the Nation's energy needs during the first quarter of the 21st century, and likely, well beyond.

For more information on the geology of the priority assessment units, contact:
- Ronald H. Affolter
- Laura R.H. Biewick
- Laura N.R. Roberts
- Edward A. Johnson
- Carol L. Molnia
- Russell F. Dubiel
- Michael E. Baskervill
- Raymond M. Angelini
- Jeffrey S. Eisen
- Robert H. Stanger
- Donald A. Johnson
- (USGS Geology Program)
Federal coal resources

It is important for land managers, planners, and mineral developers to know where the Federal coal is located and how much Federal coal exists, in order to make informed land-use decisions.

For the seven priority assessment units studied in the Colorado Plateau as part of the National Coal Assessment, we identified Federal and non-Federal surface ownership and coal ownership, and calculated Federal coal resources.

The Federal coal resources reported for each assessment unit are less than 4,500 ft deep, except for the Deseado assessment unit located in the Southern Wasatch Plateau, where the coal resources are less than 2,000 ft deep and less than 4,500 ft deep, respectively.

The Federal coal resources reported for each assessment unit are less than 6,000 ft deep, except for the Kaiparowits Plateau assessment unit located in the Southern Piceance Basin that is federally owned:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Unit</th>
<th>Federal coal resources reported</th>
<th>Surface ownership</th>
<th>Coal ownership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deseado assessment unit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Wasatch Plateau</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaiparowits Plateau</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The seven priority assessment units of the Colorado Plateau region

- **Deseado assessment unit**
  - Percent land surface managed by the Federal Government: 84%
  - Percent of non-Federal surface ownership that is federally owned coal: 8%
  - Federal coal tonnage: 370 million tons
  - Percent of total coal tonnage that is federally owned: 89%
  - Coal Quality:
    - Ash yield: 10.1%
    - Sulfur: 0.6%
    - Calorific value: 11,090 Btu/lb

- **Southern Wasatch Plateau assessment unit**
  - Percent land surface managed by the Federal Government: 94%
  - Percent of non-Federal surface ownership that is federally owned coal: 96%
  - Federal coal tonnage: 4.5 billion tons
  - Percent of total coal tonnage that is federally owned: 96%
  - Coal Quality:
    - Ash yield: 7.3%
    - Sulfur: 0.5%
    - Calorific value: 11,190 Btu/lb

- **Kaiparowits Plateau assessment unit**
  - Percent land surface managed by the Federal Government: 99%
  - Percent of non-Federal surface ownership that is federally owned coal: 99%
  - Federal coal tonnage: 46 billion tons
  - Percent of total coal tonnage that is federally owned: 99%
  - Coal Quality:
    - Ash yield: 6.5%
    - Sulfur: 0.4%
    - Calorific value: 10,010 Btu/lb

- **Danforth Hills assessment unit**
  - Percent land surface managed by the Federal Government: 70%
  - Percent of non-Federal surface ownership that is federally owned coal: 8%
  - Federal coal tonnage: 18 billion tons
  - Percent of total coal tonnage that is federally owned: 63%
  - Coal Quality:
    - Ash yield: 8.1%
    - Sulfur: 0.6%
    - Calorific value: 8,940 Btu/lb

- **Yampa assessment unit**
  - Percent land surface managed by the Federal Government: 67%
  - Percent of non-Federal surface ownership that is federally owned coal: 65%
  - Federal coal tonnage: 12 billion tons
  - Percent of total coal tonnage that is federally owned: 69%
  - Coal Quality:
    - Ash yield: 7.8%
    - Sulfur: 0.6%
    - Calorific value: 7,810 Btu/lb

- **Southern Piceance Basin assessment unit**
  - Percent land surface managed by the Federal Government: 66%
  - Percent of non-Federal surface ownership that is federally owned coal: 74%
  - Federal coal tonnage: 74 billion tons
  - Percent of total coal tonnage that is federally owned: 79%
  - Coal Quality:
    - Ash yield: 6.5%
    - Sulfur: 0.5%
    - Calorific value: 10,830 Btu/lb

- **San Juan Basin assessment unit**
  - Percent land surface managed by the Federal Government: 43%
  - Percent of non-Federal surface ownership that is federally owned coal: 74%
  - Federal coal tonnage: 136 billion tons
  - Percent of total coal tonnage that is federally owned: 78%
  - Coal Quality:
    - Ash yield: 7.4%
    - Sulfur: 0.6%
    - Calorific value: 7,660 Btu/lb

Ash yield, sulfur, and calorific value are median values on an as-received basis. To convert miles to kilometers, multiply by 1.609. To convert feet to meters, multiply by 0.3048. To convert to metric tons, multiply by 0.907. All tons are short tons (2,000-lb).
The U.S. Geological Survey’s digital database of surface and coal resources (USGS Fact Sheet FS-013-98) contains data on coal resources (two section papers) for assessing complex spatial patterns when combined with information on geological, geophysical, and other parameters gathered from geologic investigations. Integrating this information with policy makers and planners in decision-making multiple uses of Federal lands and coal resource development.

The table below shows estimates containing Federal land and federally owned coal in each of the seven priority assessment units of the Colorado Plateau. In these seven assessment units, federally owned coal tonnage was calculated for the first time as part of this study. Land area that is federally administered ranges from 5 to 99 percent, area inhabited by Federal coal ranges from 5 to 99 percent, and coal tonnage that is federally owned ranges from 5 to 99 percent. For the resources reported in this table, all coal is less than 6,000 ft deep and is 94 percent in coal, and could be included in 1 to 3 billion tons of coal. The rest of the area is non-Federal land, the rest of the coal resources are non-Federal land, and the rest of the area is non-Federal land.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Coal Tonnage According to Ownership Categories</th>
<th>Percentage of Total Tonnage</th>
<th>Federal</th>
<th>Non-Federal</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Surface</th>
<th>Coal</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surface</td>
<td>2.52%</td>
<td>1.82%</td>
<td>0.70%</td>
<td>6.02%</td>
<td>2.52%</td>
<td>2.52%</td>
<td>5.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coal</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>142%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>142%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 3. Coal tonnage according to ownership categories, Colorado Plateau region.

References Cited


For further information on Federal coal resources, contact:
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rjaffolter@usgs.gov (303) 236-7752

References Cited

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Ronald H. Affolter rjaffolter@usgs.gov (303) 236-7752

For information on the geology of the priority assessment units, contact:
Michael E. Brown
mbrownfield@usgs.gov (303) 236-7767

For information on the geology and coal resources of the Colorado Plateau region, see the CD-ROM of Kirschbaum and others (2000), Geologic Assessment of Coal in the Colorado Plateau.

Federally Owned Coal, Federal Lands, and Coal Quality in the Colorado Plateau Region

About 71 percent (360 billion tons) of the total 510 billion tons of coal in the United States is administered by the Federal Government, they are not considered Federal lands and their coal resources are not included in this study. About 26 percent of the region is administered by State agencies or in privately owned land.

About 26 percent of the region is administered by State agencies or in privately owned land.