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Leasable Mineral Revenue

Indicator: Total revenue received by county for leasable minerals from all federal lands for fiscal year 1999. Leasable minerals include primarily coal, oil and gas and geothermal. Trona and potash mining on public lands and hard rock mining on acquired lands are also included and can be significant in some areas. Revenue includes bonuses from lease sales, annual rental payments, royalties, and other revenue such as settlement payments, recoupments, gas storage fees, and estimated payments. Royalties by far make up the majority of the revenue received from leasable minerals. This map includes revenue from both public and acquired minerals.

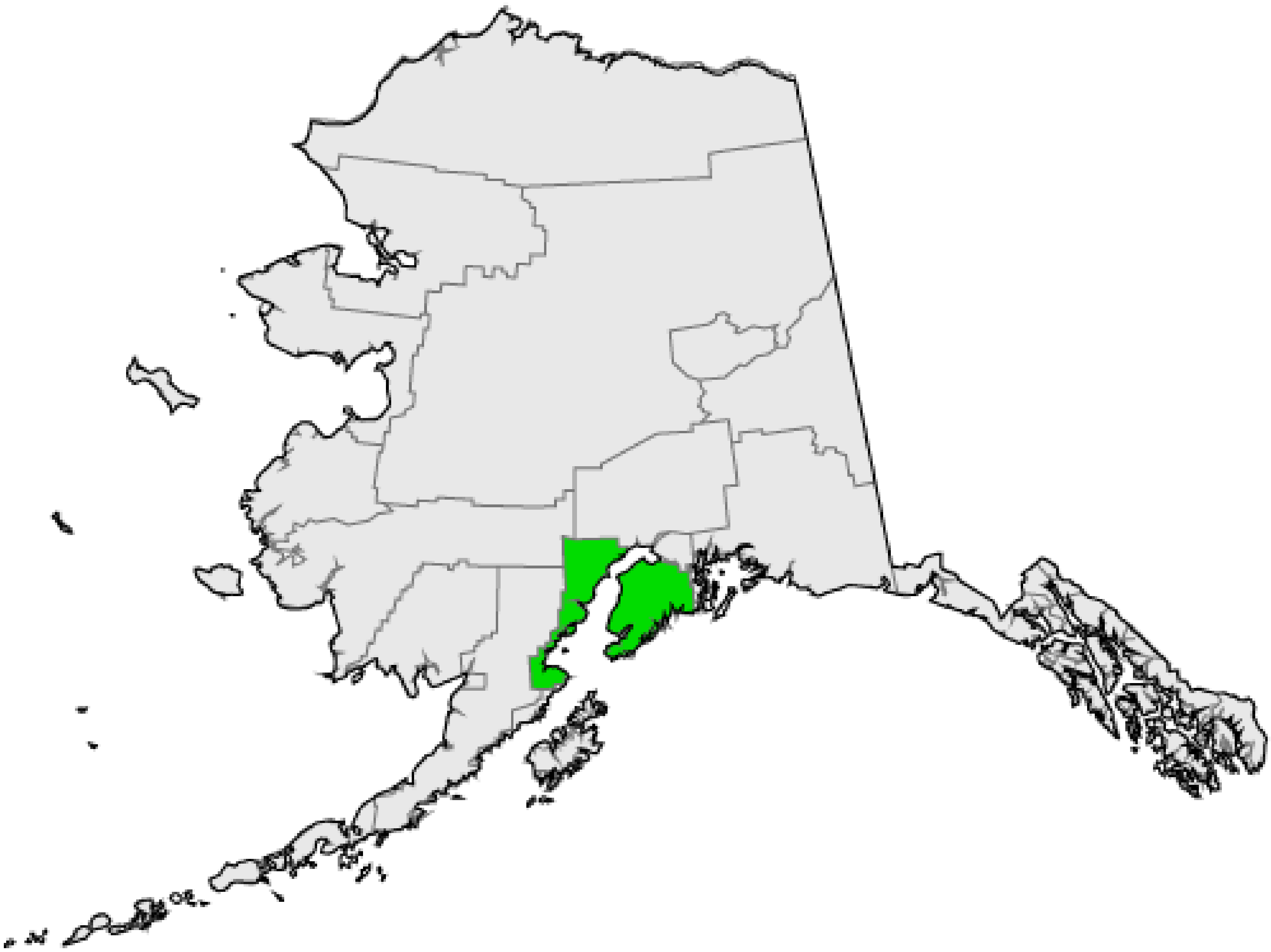
Key Findings: Leasable mineral revenues are by several magnitudes the major income producer for federal resources. The total received for the twelve western states for fiscal year 1999 equaled $980,914,987. Mineral revenues are an important indicator of economic activity in rural mining-dependent locations. Wages and income directly generated by mining related activity as well as indirect economic activity (economic activity dependent upon direct mining-related income) can be crucial in the economic health and historically the very existence of small rural communities. High levels of leasable mineral revenues are generated in counties across the entire spectrum of population density and per capita income. High revenues and economic dependency occur in a number of counties in northeast and southwest Wyoming, northwest and southeast New Mexico. Mineral dependent counties in both northwest and central Nevada, central Utah, south central Washington and southeast Montana are also areas of BLM concern.
Generally, half of the revenue received from leasable minerals on federal onshore public lands is disbursed to the State where it originated, and, for acquired minerals, generally one-quarter is disbursed to States. This creates a high level of interest from State governments in maintaining the development potential of the federal minerals, particularly in States with high percentages of productive federal mineral ownership like Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico.

Limitations: The BLM also collects additional revenue from filing fees, non-compliance assessments, and administrative charges, but these are negligible compared to the total, not easily separable into county of origin and are not included. Onshore revenue of $13,583,452 could not be separated into county of origin so is not on the map. Revenue from Native American minerals is not a federal resource so is not included. The data is not differentiated by surface ownership (e.g., BLM, private surface, National Forest System lands.) The analysis would be made more useful if leasable mineral revenue could be normalized by a digitized and accurate data layer of the BLM-managed mineral estate, which does not currently exist. An estimate of this kind would provide an indicator of mineral revenue per BLM sub-surface acre, a potentially useful socioeconomic indicator of economic activity.

Source: Minerals Management Service (MMS): http://www.rmp.mms.gov/Stats/fmrd.htm. While the BLM collects a portion of this total, MMS data accurately reflects the BLM collections for bonuses and first year rentals. Data is good and is updated annually.

Comments: None

Leasable Mineral Revenue



Leasable Mineral Revenue
Fiscal Year 1999

$2175
No Data

Scale 1:15,000,000

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