

APD Process Improvement

Tom Hare, Physical Scientist

BLM Fluid Minerals Group, Washington DC



Quality Assurance Teams

- **Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico**
- **Kemmerer, Rock Springs, Rawlins, Casper, Vernal, Farmington, Price**
- **Report completed in Wyoming offices**
- **Reports pending in all other offices**
- **Originally scheduled for Grand Junction, Glenwood Sprs., Durango, and Miles City**



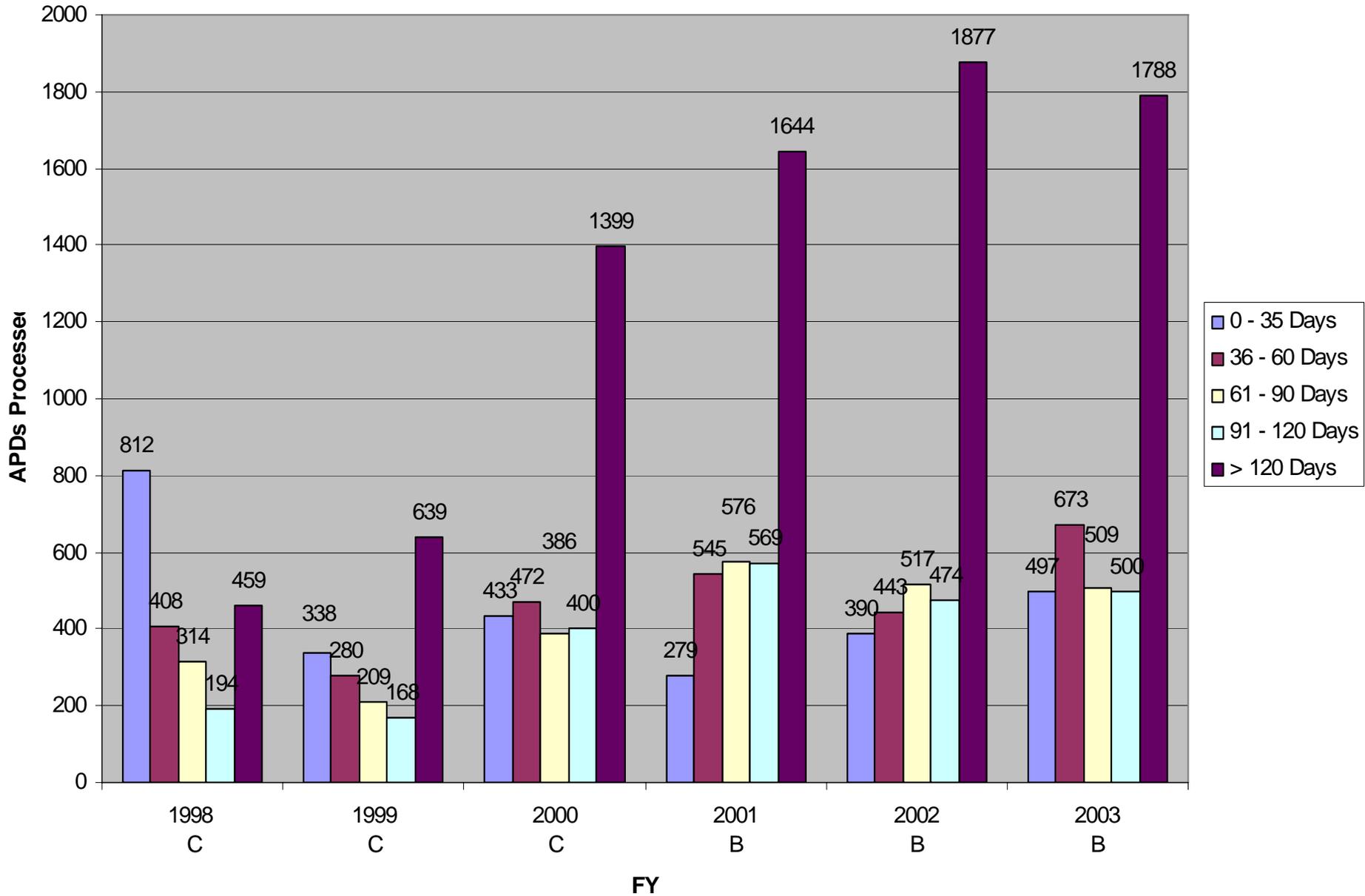
Time Frames

APD approval time frames (receipt of APD to approval-FY2003)

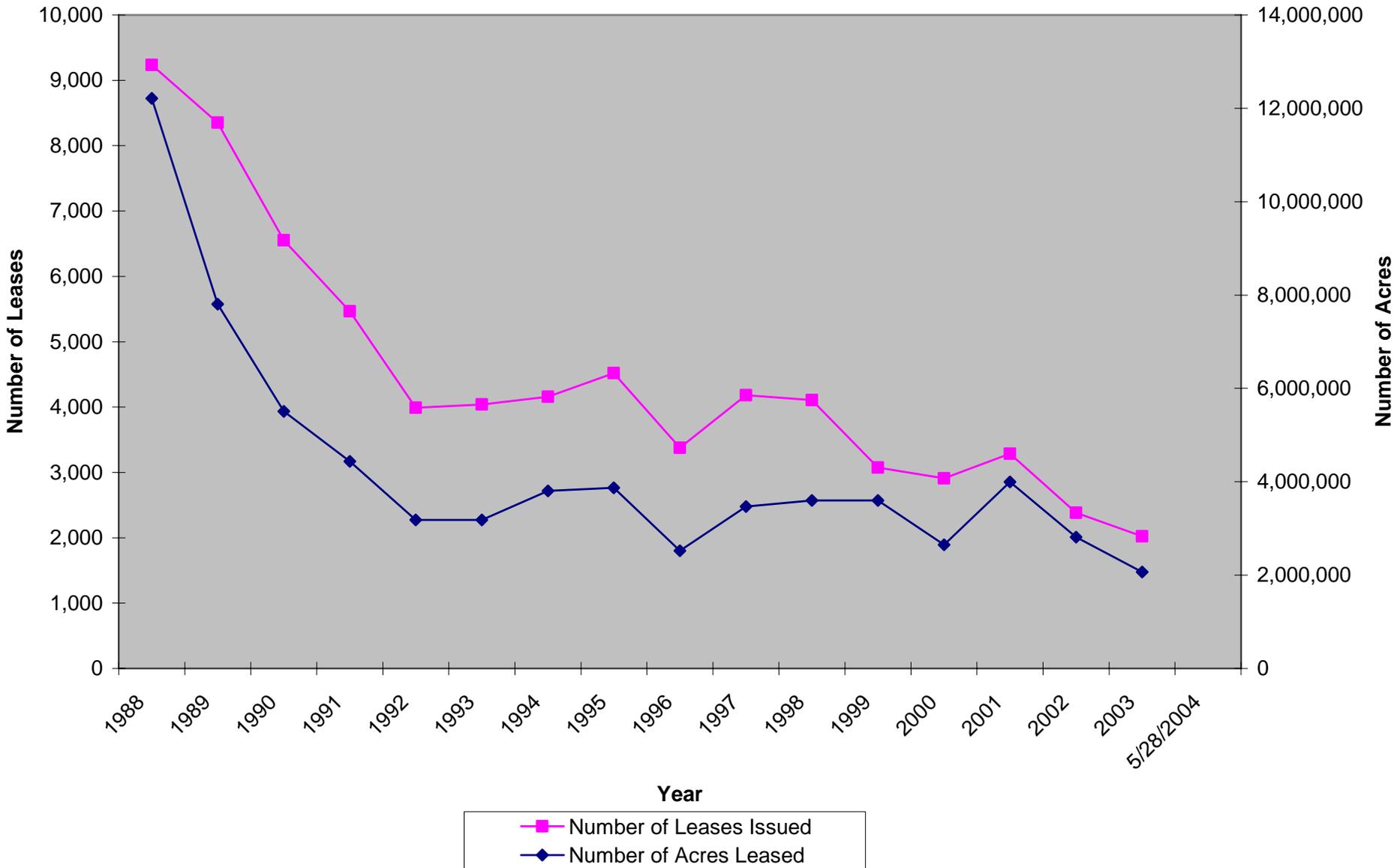
-Vernal FO	142 days
-Rock Springs FO	117 days
-Price	114 days
-Rawlins FO	91 days
-Kemmerer FO	89 days
-Farmington FO	58 days
-Casper FO	48 days



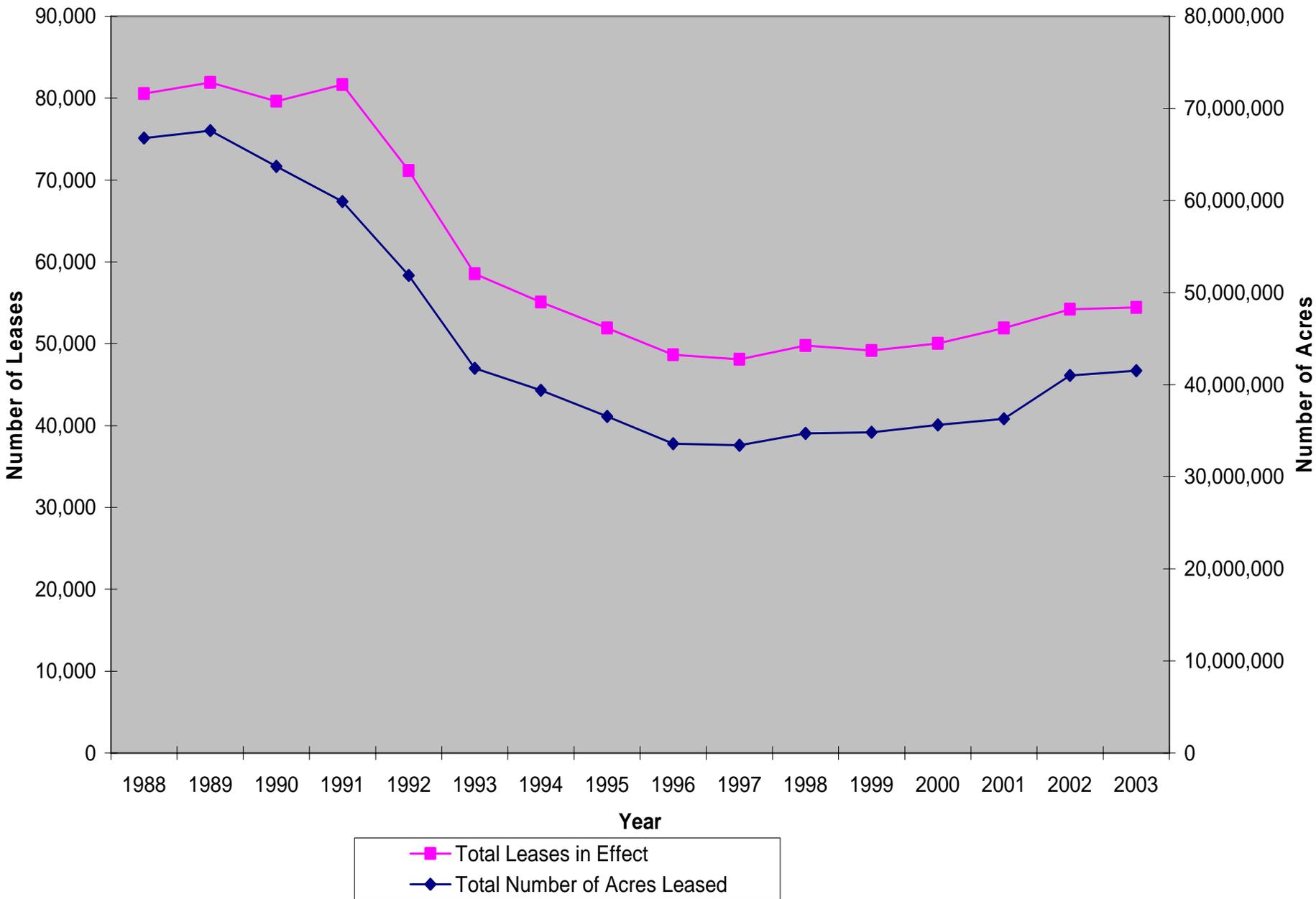
Timeframes For Processing APDs



Number of Oil and Gas Leases and Acres Issued Per Year



Total Leases in Effect and Acres



NEPA Delays

-EISs

-3rd Party EAs

-Individual vs. POD EAs

-BLM contracted EAs

-Internal BLM process (paper flow, reviews, staff reports)



Possible out-of-the-box NEPA Solutions

- EISs should be consolidated
- EISs can have general and specific sections
 - APDs can be approved w/DNAs
- Development EAs can approve APDs directly
- 3rd Party EAs should be quicker than BLM EAs
- EA formats should be provided w/expedited reviews
- Individual vs. POD EAs
- Firm BLM review timeframes (internal)



Possible Process Solutions

Better Business Practices

- Overall office process that everyone knows and follows
- Review other successful offices
- Constantly review process and implement improvements
- Ban the term “We’ve always done it this way”
- Question anything not explicit in law or regulation
- Concurrent rather than sequential review
- Work on the weakest or slowest area



Management Considerations

- Know the overall process (really know it)**
- Involve yourself in the process and the product**
- Demand timeliness and excellence (product and process)**
- Meet regularly w/your customers**
- Demand excellence from the industry**
- Fix problems (don't saw with a dull saw)**
- Think Best Management Practices**



Broad Solutions

- Aggressive SO and WO process review**
- Update all BLM policies and procedures**
- Require application of Best Management Practices**
- Improved program leadership by SOs and WO**
- Improve Section 7 and 106 consultation procedures**
- Improve APD tracking in AFMSS**
- Heed demographics**
- Aggressive training, hiring/mentoring and outsourcing**

