

For America's Heritage

THE PUBLIC LANDS *Monitor*

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PLF'S 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

The PLF will be holding its next Annual Meeting in **Boise, Idaho** during the week of September 7, 2014. Ed Shepard will be contacting Steve Ellis, BLM Idaho State Director, to help determine the theme for the meeting. The 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, sage grouse, energy transmission & corridors, fire, wild horses, and bighorn sheep are among the topics being considered. There will be speakers, discussions and a field trip, along with the customary barbeque, banquet and Board meeting. The details of the location and the theme of the meeting are being worked out by our Idaho State Representative, Deane Zeller, and Director-at-Large Anna Steele; and this information will be announced on the PLF's websites as soon as possible and in the Spring edition of the *Monitor*.

letter to Interior Secretary Jewell regarding annual maintenance fees for mining claims, and

- PLF's November 21, 2013 letter to Senate Committees urging the expedited confirmation of Neil Kornze as Director of the BLM.

New Public Lands Foundation Position Statement on "The Future of O&C Forests".

The following PLF Position Statement on "The Future of O&C Forests" was drafted by the Oregon/Washington Chapter of the Public Lands Foundation to help PLF respond to legislative proposals, including a proposal to repeal the O&C Act of 1937 and reassigning the "O&C lands" to manage-

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PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

Recent PLF advocacy activities which are discussed below include:

- PLF's new Position Statement on "The Future of O&C Forests," dated November 11, 2013,
- PLF joined with the National Forest Service Retirees Association in sending an October 10, 2013,

Retiring?

Join PLF & keep in touch with BLM and friends.

**FIRST YEAR IS FREE!
Subsequent years only \$35**

Join NOW by sending name, mailing address, email address and phone number to Public Lands Foundation, P.O. Box 7226, Arlington, VA 22207.

The Public Lands Foundation advocates and works for the retention of America's Public Lands in public hands, professionally and sustainably managed for responsible common use and enjoyment.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Ed Shepard

Where has the year gone! It seems that 2013 just started and now it is over and 2014 is here. I hope that you all had a wonderful holiday season and an enjoyable 2013. We are in the process of taking down our Christmas decorations and beginning to think about the joy of preparing our income tax return. April 15th will be here before you know it.

2014 starts my second year as president of PLF. I have enjoyed the past year, and I'm really impressed by the dedication and hard work of many of the members. I have heard from many of you during the year, and I appreciate your thoughts and input on what this organization is doing. 2013 followed on the heels of the successful commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the General Land Office in 2012. PLF was active in advocating for the National System of Public Lands by commenting on many relevant land management issues; recognizing and presenting awards for the great work done by BLM employees, managers, and cooperators; and supporting the Bureau and its employees wherever and whenever we could. I traveled back to Washington twice to represent you, once to testify in support of adequate funding for management of the lands and resources, and once with Mike Ferguson to report to the BLM and the Department on the results of the GLO Conference. The first trip was frustrating because I was testifying on a President's budget that was not released until after we had to submit our statement to the House Appropriations Committee. It took some help from Beau and others, but we were able to get the budget reviewed and I was able to adapt in time to make some needed changes in my oral testimony. Unfortunately, a budget

was never passed, and the agencies continued under continuing resolutions and the sequestration.

The second trip was a lot more fulfilling. Mike and I got to visit with Secretary Jewell, as well as the acting Assistant Secretary and Principal Deputy Director and several of the Assistant Directors, to talk about the outcomes and future plans from the GLO Conference. We found an interested audience as we discussed the programs for youth and future student congresses.

The annual meeting was held in Medford in September, and the District took us on a field trip to view the Secretarial pilots that demonstrated "ecological forestry" principles. The plenary session discussed the potential future of the O&C lands and other efforts to transfer public lands into other ownerships that are occurring across the West.

At the business meeting, the Board voted to establish a \$5,000 scholarship to honor PLF's founder and first President, George Lea. Past President Henri Bisson offered up a challenge to match the first \$1,000 donated. Thank you, Henri, for your challenge and to all others that have generously donated. The scholarship committee has done a lot of work to establish this scholarship, and this year it will be awarded to one deserving student studying natural resources or a related field from either Boise State University, Colorado State University, or Oregon State University.

The New Year promises to be packed with a lot of issues for the PLF to be involved in. Sometime in 2014 the BLM will get a new director, hopefully sooner than later. Neil Kornze has been nominated and his confirmation hearing has been held. It appears that Neil will likely be confirmed in the next few weeks, possibly

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PUBLIC LANDS FOUNDATION CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

American Forest & Paper Association
American Hiking Society
Bureau of Land Management (liaison member)
Independent Petroleum Assn. of Mountain States
Izaak Walton League of America
National Association of Counties

National Environmental Education Foundation
National Rifle Association
National Wildlife Federation
Northwest Mining Association
Public Lands Council
Western States Tourism Policy Council
Wilderness Society

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN*(Continued from Page 2.)*

before this edition goes to print. However, we've all seen these things drag out longer than anticipated in the past.

Another "new" for BLM will be a budget! Congress has finally agreed to a budget deal that will provide the agency with a budget for two years. I have not heard a lot of what is in the deal; but even if it does provide some level of certainty, it will not be without pain; and I'm sure the budget package is full of surprises. The reality is that many programs, if not all, will face difficult times. The PLF will continue to support the Bureau in this area by reminding Congress and others of the many values the National System of Public Lands contribute to the American lifestyle in amenities, ecosystem services, transportation and transmission, energy and other valuable resources; not to mention the huge economic contribution and the jobs derived from the sustainable management of these lands. And, this contribution comes with a relatively small investment from the taxpayer compared to the return. Without adequate funding, many of these values cannot be realized.

While on the subject of budget, one of the surprises in the budget deal is that the Forest Service and Department of the Interior fire agencies will not be reimbursed for funds "borrowed" in 2013 to make up for suppression shortfalls. The FLAME Act of 2009 was supposed to take care of the fund transfer issue, but it has failed to be adequately funded. The National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) has spent considerable time developing a position statement and recommended action on this issue as it relates to the National Forest System Lands. We all know that the fire and fuel issue is not confined within the borders of the National Forests. The NAFSR has offered the statement to PLF to share with DOI. This is an area that both organizations can and should be working on together. A copy of the NAFSR paper can be found at www.fsx.org.

The mission of the Public Lands Foundation is to advocate for the retention of Public Lands in the public's hands and for the professional and sustainable management of the Public Lands. Several bills have

been introduced and are working their way through Congress that would transfer lands to states or trusts for management. At least one bill, H.R. 1526, has already passed the House. The outcome of these legislative proposals is anything but certain, but PLF will need to stay vigilant and weigh in to support the retention of the lands and to support their active management to provide the entire range of outputs mandated by FLPMA and to assure that the BLM, staffed by professional land and resource managers, remains the agency charged with their stewardship.

These are just some of the issues the Board will be watching as 2014 unfolds. I hope that you have a healthy and successful 2014. Happy New Year!

PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES*(Continued from Page 1.)*

ment by other agencies or trusts. It will also serve as input to the Oregon BLM State Director for the ongoing revision of the Western Oregon Resource Management Plans.

THE FUTURE OF O&C FORESTS**November 11, 2013****PLF 2013-01****Executive Summary**

The Public Lands Foundation (PLF) believes that the O&C lands¹ must stay in Federal stewardship under the management of the Bureau of Land Management: the agency that has managed them since they were revested to the United States. The PLF also believes that the O&C lands need to be professionally managed for the sustainability of the forest. This involves managing the lands for permanent timber production; wildlife and watershed conservation; recreational values and for contributing to the economic stability of western Oregon Counties and its communities. This management must take into account that these lands are unique in the

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¹ Alternate sections of public lands in Western Oregon along the right-of-way granted to the Oregon and California Railroad Company or the Coos Bay Wagon Road Company and subsequently revested to the United States, which are managed by the Bureau of Land Management under the authority of the O&C Lands Act.

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Federal land portfolio with a unique history, having been granted into private ownership to encourage construction of a railroad from Portland south to the California State border. When the railroad company violated terms of the grant, the lands reverted back to the Federal government with the prescribed statutory intent to harvest the timber and then to sell the lands to individuals. When sale attempts failed to provide the economic objectives intended, the lands were permanently placed into Federal ownership by Congress in the O&C Act of 1937 for the narrow and specific purpose of providing a permanent source of timber supply, protecting watersheds, regulating stream flow, contributing to the economic stability of local communities and industries, and providing recreational facilities. It is the uniqueness of these lands and their history that dictate that they warrant a unique solution. The checkerboard landscape of the O&C lands does not have the same biological capabilities as the large-block land pattern of the National Forests. The intermingled land ownership pattern of industrial and private forest land owners and the associated road network require unique expertise to efficiently manage. BLM has the expertise to do this.

Congress reaffirmed the timber management and revenue sharing mandates for the O&C lands when it enacted the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) in 1976. The BLM has a long history of managing lands for conservation values in Western Oregon. They have done this for permanently protected lands, such as the Table Rock Wilderness, Wild and Scenic Rivers such as the Rouge, Outstanding Natural Areas such as Yaquina Head and Cascade Siskiyou National Monument. BLM has also managed Late Successional Reserves under the Northwest Forest Plan to provide for the recovery of the Northern Spotted Owl. BLM has a proven track record and the needed expertise to manage for all of the values found on the O&C lands.

Any solution should be scientifically-based, meet the requirements of all federal law, and consider the economic and social needs of the local communities. The work done by the BLM for the 2008 Resource Management Plans (RMP) is the most compre-

hensive analysis ever undertaken for these lands to date and should be considered as the basis for a solution. The PLF further believes that any solution must provide implementation certainty and this likely will require Congressional intervention. The BLM has the authority, the staff and the organization in place to manage any "solution" devised by Congress. However, successful implementation can only be achieved by enacting a solution that will allow BLM to avoid the endless loop of delays, administrative processes, court reviews and continuous planning that has, over the past 25 years, not achieved positive results.

Background

The O&C lands are subject to the unique mandate of the O&C Act of 1937 that lands be managed for permanent timber production under the principles of sustained yield.

These lands were originally granted to a railroad company from the public domain by the Federal Government as an incentive for construction of a rail line from Portland to the California border. The railroad company violated the terms of the land grant and the Government took back, or reverted, the unsold lands. These lands were not returned to the federal public domain, but were set aside for special management. Historically, large contiguous blocks of forest in the public domain were set aside as Forest Reserves, eventually becoming part of the National Forest System. However, the O&C lands were always different and set apart from National Forest System Lands as a result of their history. At the time, lumbering practices were "cut and run" and involved the harvesting of whole watersheds; moving to the next watershed, when logging finished. This meant the lumber mill and logging camps also moved leaving ghost towns in their place. Little regard was paid to wildlife and water resources or for re-establishing a new forest after harvest. These practices were not sustainable, and eventually principles of conservation and sustained yield began to evolve. The principle of sustained yield management was seen as a solution to these problems. The O&C Act of 1937 is based on the principle of sustained yield. Sustained yield assures that the harvest level is in balance with the growth

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of the forest and its capabilities to provide timber for future generations. The O&C Act included a revenue sharing provision to compensate the counties along the original railroad right-of-way, since the Federal Government would not pay taxes on the revested lands. Sustained yield timber production provides a perpetual revenue stream using the forest to generate funds rather than tax dollars and simultaneously provides a forested landscape that is beneficial for wildlife, water resources and recreation.

Discussion

How can the O&C lands be managed to continue to provide needed resources and revenue now and into the future while conserving the conservation values on these lands?

The O&C lands were intended to be in private ownership since the railroad land grants in the 1860s. It was only after years of fraud and litigation that the Congress through the Chamberlain–Ferris Act², revested the lands back to the Federal Government. The revesting of the land was intended to be temporary with the timber being sold and the lands sold into private ownership for the benefit of the counties where the lands exist. Because of geographical and market limitations this Chamberlain–Ferris Act failed and the counties did not receive the benefits from the lands. To correct this, Congress tried again in 1926 with another Act of Congress to dispose of the land into private ownership and provide payments to the counties. Again, the Act failed in its intended purpose. In 1937, Congress acted again by deciding to retain the O&C lands in Federal ownership for the primary purpose of contributing to the stability of local governments and providing forest products. This was to be done by providing for permanent forest production using newly developed principles of sustained yield. The counties were to be provided for by sharing receipts with the Federal Gov-

ernment. By using a sustained yield system and harvesting no more than the land could grow in a given period of time, the land would produce benefits to local governments in the long term.

The context of the O&C lands is also unique. The checkerboard ownership pattern of BLM lands intermingled with private industrial and rural residential ownerships is a vastly different landscape context than the continuous Forest Service lands. Given this checkerboard pattern, the biological capabilities of BLM lands for providing conservation values differ from capabilities of the large blocks of National Forest System lands. The Northwest Forest Plan applied a common set of management guidelines and allocations as a “one size fits all” approach that did not recognize the ownership uniqueness and circumstances of the O&C lands.

BLM has shown many times in previous plans that management strategies can be developed to meet multiple objectives and the vast array of federal laws guiding the management of these lands (See Appendix A for a partial listing). Management strategies can be developed to meet the objectives of all of the laws simultaneously. Evidence and NEPA analysis has shown that improved forest conditions through a balanced land allocation approach that includes adequate lands dedicated to sustained yield management would yield positive environmental, social and economic results. The success of sustained yield management under the O&C Act has been verified in BLM’s forest inventories. These sophisticated inventories have shown that after over fifty years of sustained yield management with annual harvests of over one billion board feet per year from the early 1960’s through the late 1980’s, there is more standing timber on the O&C Lands today than the 1950’s when sustained yield management began in earnest. Sustained yield management is the foundation to provide certainty for jobs, timber supply and revenues for the long term.

What is needed to provide management certainty now and in the future?

The O&C Act became law in 1937 and in 1976 Congress affirmed its timber management mandate in Section 701(b) of FLPMA. Other laws have been enacted with

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² The Chamberlain–Ferris Act (39 Stat. 218) of June 9, 1916 was an [Act of the United States Congress](#) that ruled that 2,800,000 acres (11,000 km²) of the original 4,000,000 acres (16,000 km²) granted to the [Southern Pacific Company](#) (successor to the [Oregon and California Railroad](#)) in [California](#) and [Oregon](#) were revested to the United States, and put under the control of the [General Land Office](#), which was to dispose of the lands and timber through auction sales.

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which the BLM must also comply. Most notable, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) passed in January 1970 and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) passed in 1973. NEPA is a procedural act that requires agencies to undertake an assessment of the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions. Two major purposes of the environmental review process are better-informed decisions and citizen involvement. The ESA requires the agencies to utilize their authorities in the furtherance of the Act and to insure that any action authorized, funded or carried out by them is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or modify their critical habitat. It is clear that these acts and other acts did not amend or repeal the O&C Act. The authority for management of the O&C Lands remains the O&C Act. The FLPMA was subsequently passed in 1976 and affirmed the purposes of the O&C Act. Court decisions in the U.S. Ninth Circuit and the U.S. District Court of the District of Columbia have upheld the purpose of the O&C Act as late as June 2013. It is less clear how these other statutes affect the implementation of the O&C Act. Without Congressional clarification or a comprehensive decision by the Courts, these issues will continue to be hammered out case by case in the Courts at the plan or project level, leading to continued gridlock.

The Northwest Forest Plan was conceived to end “gridlock” caused by lawsuits and controversy over the management of the Northwest Forest. This has not happened. Protests, appeals and litigation over timber sales and other actions that comply with the Northwest Forest Plan have increased tenfold since the Northwest Forest Plan.

Public Lands Foundation Position

The O&C Lands must stay in Federal Ownership under BLM Management.

Current legislative proposals retain the O&C lands in Federal ownership. However, subdividing the O&C lands into smaller and smaller parcels adds management complexity and confusion. Splitting management responsibility between two agencies is not efficient nor is it good public policy. The BLM is staffed by dedicated

professional land and resource managers, and it has a proven track record for managing the complexity of the O&C Lands, and is authorized by FLPMA to manage lands for both timber production and conservation purposes. The BLM should retain management responsibility for the O&C Lands.

The O&C forest lands need active professional management.

The O&C Act requires the forest be managed following the principles of sustained yield. That practice has worked well since 1937 and can continue to satisfy multiple demands from the forest into the future. All of the laws related to management of the O&C forest land can be met simultaneously by a balanced approach of allocation and management of land for specific purposes. The O&C Act mandate to manage these lands according to the principles of sustained yield is fundamental to provide for timber production, revenues to support county services, raw material supporting forest management infrastructure, jobs for rural communities, significant habitat for wildlife, and quality water, now and into the future.

The O&C Lands are unique and warrant a unique solution.

The Northwest Forest Plan developed a one-size-meets-all approach for allocation of land and management guidelines. The Critical Habitat for the northern spotted owl designation did not evaluate altering the approach specific to the BLM lands (10% of the Northwest Forest Plan area and approximately 4% of the total northern spotted owl range). The checkerboard landscape does not have the same biological capabilities of the large-block land pattern of the National Forests. The intermingled land ownership pattern of industrial and private forest land owners and the associated road network require unique expertise to efficiently manage.

The BLM Western Oregon Plan Revisions Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) completed in 2008 evaluated a variety of alternative management strategies utilizing the best available information on the

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O&C lands, and sophisticated land management modeling to evaluate the outcomes of these alternatives based on their effectiveness for meeting multiple objectives. This body of work was conducted over 5 years, with full interagency coordination, public involvement and full evaluation of the relevant science. This FEIS is the most comprehensive evaluation ever of the capabilities of the O&C forest lands in context of the private/industrial lands of the checkerboard and large blocks of the Forest Service land.

The preferred alternative represented a well-grounded balance of allocation and management direction that met all of the laws. (See Appendix A for details). The preferred alternative and the scientific analysis conducted for the 2008 RMPs, updated with any new scientific information, should form the basis for any solution to the management of these valuable lands.

Implementation Certainty

The issues that have plagued the management of the O&C lands will not be resolved until Congress intercedes and enacts legislation that clarifies the relationship of the various laws that affect the management of these lands. Legislation must include provisions that will ensure implementation certainty. Successful implementation can only be achieved by enacting a solution that will allow the BLM to get out of the endless loop of delays, administrative processes, courts and continuous planning that, to date, has not achieved positive results.

Note: The Appendix materials for this Position Statement are available for viewing on the Position Statement page of the PLF's www.publicland.org website.

PLF and NAFSR October 10, 2013 letter to Interior Secretary Jewell regarding annual fees for maintaining mining claims

October 10, 2013

Dear Secretary Jewell:

In 1993, Congress passed legislation that became law requiring the Secretary of the Interior to assess an annual

rental/maintenance fee for 1872 Mining Law claimants holding mining claims on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and National Forest System lands, but provided the Secretary an option to waive that assessment for small miners. The Public Lands Foundation (PLF) and the National Association of Forest Service Retirees recommend you consider the waiver proviso of that law to determine if it is in the public interest to retain it.

The PLF is a 501(c)(3) national non-profit, all volunteer membership conservation organization founded in 1987. Its mission is to advocate and work for the retention of America's National System of Public Lands in public hands, professionally and sustainably managed for responsible common use and enjoyment. The PLF is an advocate for professional multiple use management and protection of the public lands administered by the BLM. Most of PLF's 600+ members are retired former BLM employees and the Board of Directors serves as volunteers without compensation.

The National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) is a 501(c)(3) national non-profit, non-partisan conservation organization founded in 2000. NAFSR is composed of men and women who spent their careers involved with protecting, developing and managing our Nation's National Forests, National Grasslands, conducting research and development, and involved in state and private forestry and international forestry activities with many partners at home and around the World. "Sustaining The Heritage" is our motto. Our Board of Directors are volunteers who serve without compensation. We support the Forest Service mission in "Caring For The Land, Serving People." We recognize outstanding work of current "on duty" Forest Service colleagues.

The section of the law that provides discretion for the Secretary of the Interior to implement the small miner program is cited at 30 USC 28 (f), and states:

"(d) Waiver (1) The claim maintenance fee required under this section may be waived for a claimant who certifies in writing to the Secretary that on the date the payment was due, the claimant and all related parties(A) held not more than 10 mining claims, mill sites, or tunnel

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sites, or any combination thereof, on public lands; and (B) have performed assessment work required under the Mining Law of 1872 (30 U.S.C. 28-28e) to maintain the mining claims held by the claimant and such related parties for the assessment year ending on noon of September 1 of the calendar year in which payment of the claim maintenance fee was due.”

Since 1994, the “small miner,” defined as one who owns ten or fewer mining claims or sites, has been exempt from paying the annual maintenance fee (currently \$140), but the small miner is still required to complete not less than \$100 worth of assessment work on each claim—work that will benefit that claim towards ultimate production of minerals.

Due to personnel and budget limitations, the BLM and the Forest Service do not have the capability to verify the information in the Affidavits of Assessment Work provided by the small miners nor visit the claim sites to verify their work.

The PLF and the NAFSR are of the opinion that, in this time of budget constraints, the Small Miner Waiver program, administered by the BLM, should be eliminated.

Madame Secretary, you have the authority to eliminate this program without congressional approval. Doing so would save annual administrative costs of about one million dollars, provide increased revenues from small mining claimants that decide to pay the annual maintenance fee (currently \$140), and at the same time gain back some credibility to the 1872 Mining Law and the business of mining.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Edward W. Shepard
President, Public Lands Foundation

James W. Golden, Board Chair
National Association of
Forest Service Retirees

PLF’s November 21, 2013 letter to Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee regarding Neil Kornze’s nomination for Director of BLM

November 21, 2013

The Honorable Ron Wyden, Chairman,
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Wyden and Ranking Member Murkowski:

The Public Lands Foundation (PLF) wishes to state for the record its appreciation of the excellent working relationship it has enjoyed with President Obama’s nominee, Neil Kornze, for the next Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Further, we look forward to continuing that relationship with Mr. Kornze in his nominated role as BLM Director.

The PLF is a national non-profit membership organization that advocates and works for the retention of America’s National System of Public Lands in the public’s hands, professionally and sustainably managed for responsible use and enjoyment by American citizens. PLF endorses and embraces the multiple use mission of the BLM. Our members are predominantly retired employees of the BLM and as such have spent a career dedicated to the sound management of these valuable lands and resources.

Our membership has experience working with Mr. Kornze beginning when he first came to the BLM in January of 2011, and continuing in his role as Principal Deputy Director. He has demonstrated his support of the diversity that BLM’s multiple use management mission brings to the Nation’s various land and resource management systems.

The PLF urges Mr. Kornze’s expedited confirmation. We believe it important to have a confirmed Director in

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place to lead the BLM. Further, the PLF encourages the placement of experienced natural resource professionals in key management positions within the BLM, including the Deputy Director for Operations, Assistant Director, State Director and District Manager positions, and we feel Mr. Kornze recognizes how essential experienced natural resource professionals are for the management of the public lands.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 971-832-3945, or sssstr1@comcast.net.

Sincerely,

Edward W. Shepard, President

cc: Members, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate and Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior

STATEMENT OF NEIL KORNZE

**Nominee for the Position of Director, Bureau of
Land Management**

U. S. Department of the Interior

Before the

**U. S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources**

December 17, 2013

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Murkowski, and Members of the Committee. I am deeply honored to be here today as President Obama and Secretary Jewell's nominee to be the next Director of the Bureau of Land Management. Before we begin, I would like to take a moment to introduce my wife, Mara Gassmann, who is here with me. I am grateful for her support and that of our extended family who are watching today from Nevada, Idaho, Utah and Georgia.

My family's connection to the land goes back generations. From my great grandparents who homesteaded on the Great Plains, to my grandparents who grew, picked and packed apples in the Pacific Northwest, to my father who spent his career exploring Nevada and other states for gold and copper deposits,

the bounty of the land has always been central to my understanding of our nation's greatness and its potential. As an individual, I am a hunter, an angler, a hiker, a recreational shooter, and a mountain bike rider. I am also a consumer of fossil fuels and renewable energy. Through these pursuits and practices and through my work both here in the U.S. Senate and at the Bureau of Land Management, I have come to appreciate our nation's natural heritage from a wide range of perspectives.

During my time working here in the U.S. Senate, I had the privilege of helping to craft critical national legislation like the Omnibus Public Lands Act of 2009 and a long-term reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Payment-In-Lieu-of-Taxes programs. As Majority Leader Harry Reid's advisor on public land and natural resource issues, I worked closely with Members from both parties and this committee to move forward statutory improvements that recognized both the need for responsible development of our natural resources and smart conservation in places where it makes sense.

Over the last three years I have worked at the Bureau of Land Management in a number of leadership positions, including my current role of Principal Deputy Director. Through this position – which I have held for the past year – I have been the functioning head of the Bureau of Land Management. In this role, I have strived to bring both a continuity of leadership and vision to the organization as well as a willingness to innovate and to approach our many responsibilities with fresh eyes.

Many of the accomplishments of the first-term, including oil and gas leasing reforms and the Western Solar Plan, are still a work in progress. Limited budgets coupled with the long-term nature of the work we do means that successful implementation of programs often takes years. This reality makes long-term stability in the organization's leadership and philosophy a critical component of achieving our shared goals.

While at the Bureau of Land Management, I have worked with my colleagues to find new ways of connecting with the public, our partners, and our own internal team. We have made some strides in this area, but much more needs to be done to provide clearer, more user-friendly information about the resources that exist on the public lands and the both long and short-term plans for management.

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STATEMENT OF NEIL KORNZE

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The issue of communication is a particular challenge for the Bureau because, unlike some of our sister agencies, the resources that we manage are scattered across all 50 states, and there is rarely a clear demarcation of where the public lands stop and start. We are proud of the way that this land pattern places us as a key partner to so many communities, both rural and urban, but it also gives us an added responsibility to harness available tools to better inform the public about where we are and what we do.

Right now at the Bureau we are in the process of using technology to break down barriers. In the oil and gas realm, we have made strong improvements in our reviews of drilling permits in recent years, but we can and will do better through the use of an online permitting system that will be tested and rolled out over the next several months.

Similarly, we have a unique responsibility for surveying and conveying millions of acres of land to native corporations and to the State of Alaska. This work has historically been done through a relatively slow and expensive process. By looking at this particular challenge with a new perspective, we have found ways to fulfill our commitment to the State of Alaska literally decades ahead of the current schedule, at a fraction of the cost, and with a greatly improved product.

In the face of declining budgetary resources and increasing demands on our nation's public lands and minerals, I am committed to exploring new approaches with the public, our stakeholders, and Congress so that the Bureau of Land Management can become a more effective and more responsive organization. Through these efforts and through greater use of science in our decision-making processes and by moving to a more nimble, landscape-level planning approach, we have incredible opportunities in the years ahead.

As you know, the challenges we face are also substantial. Fire, drought, and the decline of critical species like sage grouse are all situations that we must adapt to and help address. We must also do more to understand the most durable ways to mitigate development impacts and to restore the public lands so that we can truly live up to the agency's dual mission of

multiple use and sustained yield.

If confirmed, I will work with my dedicated colleagues, Congress and the public to tackle these issues directly and to ensure that the Bureau of Land Management continues to play a vital role in the American economy and in sustaining public lands for this and all future generations to use and to enjoy.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to share these thoughts with you and your distinguished colleagues. I consider it a great privilege to be here with you today. I look forward to answering any questions you might have.

PLF'S 2013 LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARD AND CERTIFICATES

Each year the PLF presents Landscape Stewardship Awards and Certificates to honor private citizens and organizations that work to advance and sustain community-based stewardship on landscapes that include, in whole or in part, public lands administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Nominations come from BLM offices, PLF members and private citizens.

The 2013 Landscape Stewardship Award was presented to the West Box Elder Coordinated Resource Management Group in northwestern Utah. The Award citation reads as follows:

AWARD West Box Elder Coordinated Resource Management Group

The Public Lands Foundation presents the West Box Elder Coordinated Resource Management Group with its 2013 Landscape Stewardship Award and this Citation. The Foundation grants this recognition to honor private citizens and organizations that work to advance and sustain community-based stewardship on landscapes that include, in whole or in part, public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The West Box Elder Group is actively engaged in landscape management projects in northwestern Utah. The lands included in their planning and project area are some of the most productive and critical sage grouse

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PLF'S 2013 LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARD AND CERTIFICATES

(Continued from Page 10.)

habitat lands in the Great Basin ecosystem. The landscape includes a balanced mix of BLM lands, state lands and private property, with planning and project execution crossing boundaries to implement logical management projects.

The BLM landscape in this area also includes important habitat for Boreal toad, and refugia for Least Chubb. A significant challenge for the BLM in this area is an extensive encroachment of juniper woodlands into once productive Sage Grouse habitat.

The West Box Elder Group is an ideal example of a community-based landscape stewardship group that is committed, engaged and active on the land across ownership boundaries. Over the last two years, the Group has worked together as an effective response to the need for landscape level planning and project implementation in a critical region of the Great Basin.

In addition to completing a Coordinated Resource Management Plan in 2012, the group has several vigorous subgroups that are working on project-specific planning and implementation in the areas of Sage Grouse habitat improvement, Pinyon-juniper encroachment, noxious weed abatement actions and related topics.

Notably the West Box Elder Group members have contributed significant time and effort, keeping a landscape stewardship vision engaged and moving forward on projects and planning. Significant improvements are being made in the landscape conservation and management of Sage Grouse and other sensitive species. And, the Group provides a forum for the BLM to reach small communities in the county.

Thanks to the West Box Elder Coordinated Resource Management Group and its members, the future for BLM landscape stewardship in northwestern Utah is bright.

The Public Lands Foundation is pleased to present the West Box Elder Coordinated Resource Management Group with its 2013 Landscape Stewardship Award and this Citation for invaluable contributions to the stewardship of America's public landscapes.

Edward W. Shepard, President
September 13, 2013



West Box Elder Coordinated Resource Management Group.

Seated (L to R): Richard Kimber, Commissioner LuAnn Adams, PLF Representative Bill Lamb, & Ken Spackman.

Standing (L to R): Commissioner Stan Summers, Anthony VonNiederhausein, Alan Smith, Jay Tanner, Diane Tanner, Kevin Oliver, & Clint Hill.

PLF 2013 Landscape Stewardship Certificates of Appreciation were presented to three other organizations:

- Bear River Divide Steering Committee in Wyoming,
- Colorado ORV Coalition & Responsible Recreation Foundation, and
- Grand County Trail Mix organization in Grand County, Utah.

Bear River Divide Steering Committee.

The Bear River Divide Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) Steering Committee was established in 1993 to resolve some of the issues surrounding the BLM's management of grazing allotments. The Committee was composed of representatives from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Bear River Commission, cattle permittees, sheep permittees, wildlife interests, mineral and oil and gas interests, and the BLM.

The Steering Committee meetings were open to the public and two facilitators were employed to conduct

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PLF'S 2013 LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARD AND CERTIFICATES

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the proceedings. No action was approved unless unanimously agreed to by all members of the Committee.

Numerous resource and economic benefits resulted from the Steering Committee efforts, and major range improvement projects have been approved and completed, including six major water pipelines placed on ridge tops to draw cattle off of the riparian areas located along creeks, three prescribed burns covering approximately 30,000 acres, sixty miles of pasture fence, and various spring developments and reservoir reconstruction projects.

The long-term benefits of the Steering Committee include increasing the level of trust between the permittees and the BLM, which allows flexibility of management based on resource conditions. This relationship has enabled the team to develop adaptive management techniques which include the ability to respond to weather and market conditions, to use flexibility in grazing schedules to accommodate mid-season vegetation variations and moisture, to increase and establish monitoring data, to change salting patterns to distribute livestock and minimize impacts to an area,

to establish a deferred rotation grazing schedule through fencing, to stabilize stocking rates and be flexible to allow for vegetative and economic variations, and to increase funding opportunities.

The team reconvenes regularly to continue work towards meeting proper functioning condition standards and long-term sustainability.

Colorado ORV Coalition & Responsible Recreation Foundation

The Colorado OHV Coalition and the Responsible Recreation Foundation have been partners with the BLM for over 10 years, and have had an effective and ongoing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) since 2005. The MOU partners have met annually to develop a Plan of Operations. And, the Coalition and Foundation cooperate with the BLM in providing training and educational information and to facilitate the management of trails, and trail systems.

The Coalition, in collaboration with the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council, U.S. Forest Service, BLM, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife, have coordinated an annual OHV management workshop since 2000. The purpose of this workshop is to assist the BLM and other stakeholders in gaining knowledge and developing skills and partnerships that will result in long-term sustainability and improvement of trail systems.

The Coalition and the Foundation are a statewide resource for land managers and local communities. The partnership encourages a conservation ethic in Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) and Over the Snow Vehicle (OSV) users by developing a greater sense of stewardship while cooperating on the construction, maintenance, and operation of roads, trails, and systems. The Coalition and Foundation are dedicated to responsible management of the Nation's natural resources through the involvement of concerned citizen groups.

The activities to be undertaken through this partnership are in furtherance of the BLM, the Foundation and the Coalition mission by providing

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PLF member Don Schramm (center left) presents the **Landscape Stewardship Certificate of Appreciation** to Charles Rex (far left) of the **Bear River Divide Steering Committee** representing cattle interests. Other committee members shown are Mary Thoman (center right) representing sheep interests, & Don Lamborn (far right) representing the mineral industry.

PLF'S 2013 LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARD AND CERTIFICATES

(Continued from Page 12.)

1) enhanced educational opportunities and materials for the public, 2) enhanced training opportunities, and 3) enhanced roads, trails, and OHV/OSV riding areas.

The Coalition and Foundation, in partnership with the BLM and others, have developed the "Stay the Trail" educational campaign to address irresponsible off-highway vehicle (OHV) use and damage mitigation on public lands. Stay The Trail's mission is to reinforce and highlight responsible OHV use, and to modify and mitigate irresponsible use in an effort to reduce resource damage on public lands. The goal is to create a statewide culture of responsible OHV use that will continue beyond the life of the project, effectively creating a stewardship ethic among all Colorado OHV recreationists.



PLF Representative David Stout (left) presents John Bonglovanni with a PLF **Landscape Stewardship Certificate of Appreciation**. John received the Certificate on behalf of the **Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition** (and the **Responsible Recreation Foundation**, which was unable to send a representative).

Grand County Trail Mix

The Grand County (Utah) Non-Motorized Trail Committee, known as "Trail Mix," was established by the Grand County Council in 1999. Trail Mix was set up to represent the bicyclists, hikers and equestrians of Grand County. The impetus for the formulation of the committee was to provide Grand County's non-motorized recreation input into the Moab Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plan revision. As part of that effort, Trail Mix was tasked by the Grand County Council to formulate a Non-motorized Trails Master Plan for the entire county.

Trail Mix is a voluntary committee made up of Grand County citizens representing the three non-motorized groups. Private lands make up around 6% of the land ownership in Grand County. Thus, working with Federal and State agencies is a priority of the Trail Mix Committee. The committee's monthly meetings are all public meetings, and Trail Mix has become a community forum for Grand County on trail and recreation issues.

Trail Mix produced a Non-Motorized Trail Master Plan in 2005. Those portions of the Master Plan that

(Continued on Page 14.)



PLF Representative Bill Lamb presents **Landscape Stewardship Certificate of Appreciation** to Sandy Freethey, Chairperson of the **Grand County Trail Mix**. Looking on (L to R) are Kim Schappert, Scott Escott, Sharon Hogan, Prian Lugers (holding twins), Laurel Hunter, Kathy Grossman, Geoff Freethey, Kristen Petersen, & David Olson.

PLF'S 2013 LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARD AND CERTIFICATES

(Continued from Page 13.)

involved BLM-managed lands were provided to the BLM as part of the Resource Management Plan process.

Trail Mix also has been instrumental in obtaining funding and in working with the BLM, the National Park Service, and the Utah Department of Transportation to build a paved non-motorized trail system. The system includes a non-motorized bridge across the Colorado River that is the keystone for the paths. This system is of great public benefit to recreation and tourism in Grand County (over 60% of the economy in Grand County is directly dependent upon tourism), and is a paragon of sustainable use. Trail Mix has also secured over \$18 million in grant monies for Grand County to fund these paved bike paths on BLM lands.

Trail Mix has worked hard to help keep non-motorized recreation a sustainable, environmentally friendly activity that powers the Grand County economy. By doing so, natural, cultural and heritage resources are protected – which are the resources that visitors come to Grand County to enjoy. Trail Mix keeps communications open among private land owners, local governments and state and federal agencies, building relationships to benefit the citizens of and visitors to Grand County.

PLF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Officers, Directors-at-Large, and State Representatives listed on the front page of this *Public Lands Monitor* were elected in the PLF's annual election, which closed on December 15, 2013. At the Board of Directors meeting in Medford last September, the Board approved an amendment to its By-laws to increase the number of Director-at-Large positions; to reduce the number of State Representatives from two to one per State; and to combine the Midwest and Eastern States Regions, which now have one Representative. In most States, one of the State Representatives has moved to a Director-at-Large position.

SPECIAL DUES PAYMENTS

Contributing Members

Robert Bainbridge	Mel Berg
Sonya Cox	Levi Deike
Howard Gebel Jr.	Michael Green
Marv LeNoue	Neil McCleery
Marvin Pearson	Felicia Probert
James Rhett	Bill Ruddick
Darrel Short	

Sustaining Members

Barron Bail	Gerald H. Brown
John Likins	

Sponsoring Member

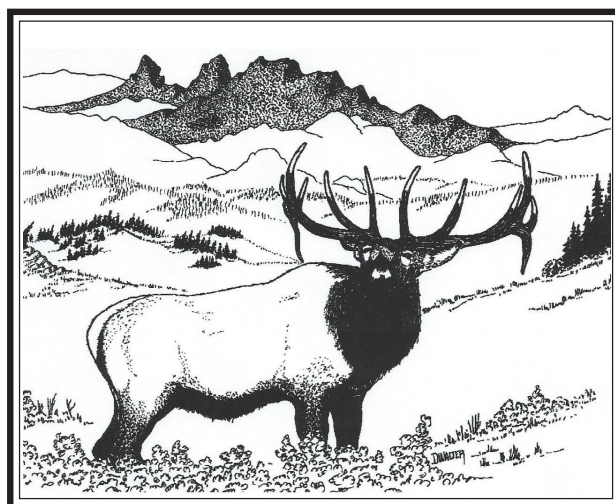
Louis Boll

DONATIONS

Thomas Conquergood	Ed Hastey
Frances Werner	Pat Harvey

DONATIONS TO GEORGE LEA FOUNDER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Louis Boll	Andrea and Gregory Foster
Marv LeNoue	Pat Harvey
Dwight Hempel	Eric Janes
James Monroe	Ed Shepard
Johanna Wald	Marvin Woodbury



IN MEMORIUM

The PLF regrets to inform you that the following long-time BLM employees have passed on.

Ferne Blair, Realty Specialist at the Department of the Interior's Lower Colorado River Land Use Office in Yuma, Arizona, which later became the BLM Yuma District Office; on December 11, 2013, in Yuma, Arizona.

Richard Bonn, Wildlife Biologist at the BLM Oregon State Office and at the Medford District Office, on September 21, 2013, in Portland, Oregon.

Anna Marie "Sue" Bosma, who worked in the Lands Division in the BLM's Washington, D.C. Headquarters Office, on October 8, 2013, in Washington, D.C.

Alvin B. "Barney" Brunelle, BLM Lands and Minerals Examiner in Idaho, on November 8, 2013, in Boise, Idaho.

Theresa A. "Terri" Carmack, Secretary/Records Clerk in the BLM Arizona State Office in Phoenix, on October 26, 2013, in Phoenix, Arizona.

Robert Constans, Cartographic engineer for the BLM, on October 17, 2013, in Vancouver, Washington.

Dwain L. Davis, Forester and Area Manager at the BLM District Offices in Redding, California and Medford, Oregon, on December 17, 2013, in Medford, Oregon.

Grant Drennen, Range Conservationist in the BLM Tucson Field Office, on September 17, 2013, in Tucson, Arizona.

Arlene Fausnaugh, employed by BLM on the External Affairs Staff of the Idaho State Office, in Boise Idaho, on January 1, 2014.

Stuart L. "Stub" Freer, BLM Forester at Coos Bay, Oregon, and Associate District Manager at Canon City, Colorado, on October 7, 2013, in Canon City, Colorado.

George B. Hartman, Jr., Biometricianist for the Bureau of Land Management in Portland, Oregon, on November 4, 2013, in Portland, Oregon.

George House, BLM Civil Engineer and Chief of Operations, in the Vale, Oregon and Boise, Idaho District

Offices, on December 22, 2013, in Vale, Oregon.

Kay Kletka, Land Law Examiner working on mining claims in the BLM's Alaska State Office in Anchorage, and later worked for the BLM's Joint Pipeline Office, on December 31, 2013, in Anchorage, Alaska.

Otto F. Krueger, BLM Area Manager at Redding California, and also worked for BLM at Kanab, Utah, and Worland and Cheyenne, Wyoming; on December 14, 2013, in San Diego, California.

Darrel J. Nicholson, who worked for the BLM at Salem, Oregon, on October 6, 2013, in Salem, Oregon.

Virginia Harris Pickett, who worked at the BLM Vale District Office in Vale, Oregon, on November 21, 2013, in Caldwell, Idaho.

Dennis James Rudd, Fire Operation Specialist for the BLM at Boise, Idaho; on November 7, 2013, in Meridian, Idaho.

Karl R. Rymer, Forester and Area Manager in the BLM Eugene District Office, on December 27, 2013, in Eugene, Oregon.

Arthur "Art" Tower, BLM Resource Area Manager at Las Vegas, Nevada and Phoenix, Arizona, on October 21, 2013; in Phoenix, Arizona.

Mark T. Urban, BLM smokejumper killed in a parachute training accident, on September 28, 2013, near Boise, Idaho.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**Received from:**

Robert Buffington

Levi Deike
Vince Ogurek

Darwin Priebe
Louise Senzel

Ed Spang

In Memory of:

Jim Ruch and Bill
Leavell
Harold Berends
Lila Mae Newton and
Bob Springer
Bill Bradley
Irving and Jennie
Senzel
Geren Long, Jim
Yoakum and Lois
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Public Lands Foundation

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$200 | Sponsoring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$500 or more | Patron |

Public Lands Foundation Goals

- Keep lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in public ownership and open to use by the public.
- Support multiple use management under the Federal Land Policy & Management Act.
- Encourage professionalism by BLM employees.
- Increase the public's understanding of and support for the proper management of the public lands.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE - \$350

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