



For America's Heritage

THE PUBLIC LANDS *Monitor*

Address: P.O. Box 7226 Arlington, VA 22207

Website: www.publicland.org

Phone: 971-832-3945

Email: sssstrl@comcast.net

Editors:

Glen Collins

Patricia Harvey

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2014 PLF ANNUAL MEETING Boise, Idaho - September 9 - 12, 2014

A New Direction for Fire Management is a very timely theme for this year's PLF Annual Meeting in light of the increased number and intensity of fires in the West over the past several years and the impacts fire suppression costs continue to have on BLM's natural resource management programs and budget. Come join us and learn what is new and what is needed.

The Board of Directors will be meeting all day on Tuesday, September 9 and will reconvene on the morning of Friday, September 12 for a half-day session. Board Members, and others interested in attending the Board Meeting, should plan on arriving in Boise on Monday, September 8, and departing in the afternoon of September 12.

There has been a flip in the days for the general meeting and the "Paradigm Project" tour from what was stated in the spring edition of the *Public Lands Monitor*. The general session is now scheduled for Wednesday, September 10, and the tour is scheduled for Thursday, September 11. Meeting organizers believe learning about the project at the general meeting before the tour will make the tour much more meaningful.

The general meeting program will consist of an update on BLM priorities and current issues by Director Neil Kornze (invited) or his representative. Panel discussions will address the Paradigm Project; Rangeland Fire Protection Associations; pre-suppression activities; fire as the number-one threat to Sage-grouse; and what is new in Idaho suppression technology, aerial applications and restoration projects.

Rocky Baker is invited to be our luncheon Keynote Speaker. You do not want to miss him. He is the author of "*Scorched Earth: How the Fires of Yellowstone Changed America*," an environmental reporter for the *Idaho Statesman*, and he
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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

Summer is here and things are heating up across the country and I'm not just talking about the weather. It is an even numbered year after all and the election season is coming into full swing. There are a number of issues swirling around in Washington and it is likely that very little will actually

get accomplished in the few legislative days left before summer recess. As of this week, it appears the Interior Appropriations bill is going nowhere and the DOI will probably be under a continuing resolution going into the new fiscal year. Well, I guess no one should be surprised, but after the budget agreement last year I'd thought there would be some hope....

Meanwhile, in BLM country things are also getting hot. I subscribe to Google Alerts and not a day goes by that there is not at least one story, and usually several, that portrays the BLM and its hardworking employees in a negative light. The Bundy issue refused to die even as the support for his defiance of Federal court orders and the rule of law waned. Other issues, such as the Grass March in Nevada, the ATV ride in Recapture Canyon in Utah, and the Red River issue on the Texas/Oklahoma border continue to capture the media's attention. In my opinion, you can't lay the blame of this on any one thing, but inaction in Washington plays a large role in the problems plaguing management and use of the public lands. Years of piling on of conflicting laws, layering of regulations propagated by various agencies that conflict with BLM regulations, lack of adequate budgets, and judicial decisions have resulted in an environment where it is very difficult for agencies to make sustainable decisions in a timely manner. This is resulting in anger and frustration for many of the users

of the public lands and they are making this anger and frustration known to their elected leaders at the local and federal level. These elected leaders, not having the political will or capabilities to "fix" the problems, blame the easiest target – the employees. This is not fair, but it is also not new. Rather than trying to fix what they perceive as wrong, they question why the government is managing these lands, they disparage the laws passed by Congress, and some openly flaunt the rule of law and, directly or indirectly condone violence. The public land management system is in need of repair and until it is fixed the discord will continue.

So, what can the PLF do to help when situations like the Bundy issue rise? That is a question that many of you asked and one the Board of Directors struggled to answer. We held a lengthy conference call looking for those answers. We wrote an op-ed piece that did not get published (it is on our web page and is included in this edition of the *Monitor*). We also wrote a letter of support to all of the BLM employees expressing our gratitude for the work they do. A group of PLF folks, led by Elaine Zielinski, wrote a brief paper summarizing the history of the public lands, their acquisition, disposal, and retention, and their value to the American people. We shared this history with Congressional staff, the Department, the BLM and media as a source of information to use when responding to how and why the federal government owns these lands. I have made two trips back to Washington to meet with BLM leadership and the new Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals where these issues were discussed to the extent that the leaders were free to discuss them. On-going investigations limited the information that they could share. Many of PLF's board members met with or made personal calls to state directors and assistant directors to offer moral support and encouragement. These are

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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

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small gestures that we hope helped somewhat and will add value as these debates play out over the coming years.

One lesson that we learned from this is that PLF needs a better way to spread information rapidly. To this end, an ad hoc committee has been formed to look for ways that we can use new technology to get our message out. The combined membership of PLF has diverse backgrounds, unparalleled experience managing public lands, and expertise in every natural resource discipline. We are in a unique position to relay accurate information to the media, the public and political leaders. To do this well we need to have proactive processes in place to assure that any information we share is timely, deliberate, and objective.

Now that I have vented some of my frustrations, let me move on to more positive news. In April, BLM's new director, Neil Kornze was confirmed by the Senate and former Idaho State Director Steve Ellis was named as the Deputy Director. I have met with Neil and Steve on my trips to DC and they have been very open to meeting with me and other PLF Board members to discuss relevant issues and to listen to what we have to say. The Senate also confirmed a new Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals, Janice Schneider. I had the opportunity to meet with her and share PLF's mission and work in early June, soon after she took office. She has worked in the Department's solicitor's office before and is very knowledgeable of BLM issues. ASLM Schneider was aware of PLF when I met with her and was very interested in the past and upcoming student congresses.

The folks in Idaho are planning an outstanding annual meeting that is coming up this September 9-12. The theme of the meeting, "A New Direction for Fire Management" is relevant and timely. Boise is a great area to visit in September and I hope you will consider making the trip. More information on the meeting is available elsewhere in this edition.

Just before the annual meeting, the Second Student Congress will be held in Arizona. The 21 students attending will use the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act as a back drop to discuss the future of land man-

agement and to continue discussions on developing a land ethic. The students will become inspired with a two-day visit to the Apache Creek Wilderness Area. The PLF has committed to holding a student congress every two years as a way of supporting youth to become aware of and support public land management. I'm sure this congress will be as successful as the first one in 2012. Those of you who observed the first congress know that the future of land management is in capable hands.

Another commitment to future land managers is the George Lea Founder's Scholarship. This scholarship was initiated at our annual meeting in Medford last year. We solicited applicants from three universities, Colorado State, Oregon State, and Boise State for this \$5000.00 award. After a review process by a group of PLF members, the first George Lea Founder's Scholarship was presented to Oregon State University, College of Forestry senior, Melanie Brown. Melanie is an impressive young lady with a promising future. I encourage you to read the article on her in this copy of the *Monitor*. This scholarship was possible due to the generous contributions of funds and time by several PLF members and we are grateful to those that contributed and participated.

I hope you all have a safe and happy summer, and I hope to see many of you in Boise in September.

2014 PLF ANNUAL MEETING
Boise, Idaho - September 9 - 12, 2014

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has been covering environmental and western issues in Idaho since 1985. The banquet has also changed to Wednesday, following the general meeting. It will include dinner, entertainment, former BLM employees "Remembering BLM," and a ceremony for a Lifetime Service Award winner and Volunteer of the Year.

You have several choices for Wednesday's lunch and banquet.

Wednesday Lunch:

Roast Turkey—sliced roast turkey breast, sautéed fresh vegetables, savory sage dressing, mashed potatoes & gravy, assorted rolls & butter.

Fettuccine Primavera—tender Fettuccine pasta with fresh vegetables in Alfredo sauce, & oven-warmed breadsticks.

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2014 PLF ANNUAL MEETING Boise, Idaho - September 9 - 12, 2014

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Lasagna—traditional meat Lasagna with grated Parmesan cheese on the side, sautéed fresh vegetables, & oven-warmed breadsticks.

Chef's Salad—Mixed greens with ham, turkey, cheddar & Swiss cheeses, tomato, olives, & egg, with assorted rolls & butter.

All of the above lunch choices include Chef's choice dessert, iced tea & coffee.

Wednesday Banquet:

Roast Sirloin of Beef—thinly sliced roast sirloin of beef with mushroom sauce, & Chef's choice starch.

Chicken Marsala—chicken medallions in light Marsala wine sauce, & Chef's choice pasta.

Teriyaki Salmon—Grilled Teriyaki salmon fillet with rice primavera.

All of the above banquet choices include mixed greens with assorted dressings, sautéed fresh vegetables, assorted rolls & butter, house dessert, iced tea & coffee.

Vegan Dish—to be determined.

Thursday Box Lunch for Tour:

Turkey & Avocado

Ham & Cheese

Vegetarian

All box lunches include chips, a fruit, a cookie, and water or soft drink.

Be sure to make your selections on the back of the Registration Form insert in this *Monitor*.

As stated in the last edition of the *Monitor*, the Paradigm Project is a comprehensive plan for 300,000 acres involving vegetative manipulations, plantings, rural fire districts and pre-suppression practices aimed at preventing large acreage fires. This project was developed with active involvement of the State and rural fire districts. And, it will be an important part of the general meeting discussion. Transportation will be by a 55-passenger coach.

The annual barbecue will be held on Thursday evening at Eagle Island State Park, Kestrel Pavilion, following the tour. The Bodacious Pig (the caterer) will be serving us a dinner of ribs, pulled pork, chicken, and

sausage, along with drinks and other goodies. Spouses are most welcome and encouraged to participate in the tour and the barbecue.

Activities in the Boise area for spouses who prefer not to attend the general meeting on Wednesday include a tour to a local winery, a Boise Tour Train of local sights, shopping at Boise Town Square Mall, and the Birds of Prey World Center. Please indicate preferences on the back of the Registration Form. Transportation for spousal tours will be by carpooling of private vehicles of participants.

The Annual Meeting will be held at **The Riverside Hotel**, 2900 Chinden Boulevard, Boise, Idaho 83714. They have set aside a block of rooms at a rate of \$83.00 for single occupancy and \$93.00 for double occupancy, plus local taxes and fees, currently at 13%. You must make your own arrangements with the hotel by calling **208-343-1871** no later than Monday, **August 18, 2014**. Please mention the **Public Lands Foundation** in order to receive the group discount.

The hotel's check-in time is 3:00 p.m. and the check-out time is 12:00 p.m. Early check-in is based on a "space available" basis and will not be guaranteed. Individuals staying in their rooms beyond check-out time will be billed one (1) additional night's stay. Late check-out is provided based on availability, although some charges may apply. Arrangements can be made by contacting the front desk. Luggage storage is available either for early arrival or late departure.

The Hotel accepts cash, checks, and most credit cards. Guests who wish to pay with cash or check will be asked for a credit card or a cash deposit at check-in to enable charge privileges within the hotel and to assure payment at check-out.

The meeting Registration Form is an insert in this *Public Lands Monitor*. Please be sure to register and send it and your check to Beau McClure, 6510 West Lucia Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85083, before August 18, 2014, for the reduced rate. If you have any questions, please contact Deane Zeller at dhzeller@hotmail.com or Beau McClure by e-mail at bcmclure@cox.net or by phone at 623-587-7883.

**MAY 20, 2014 TELECONFERENCE
BOARD MEETING**

The PLF Board of Directors held a teleconference Board meeting on May 20, 2014 to discuss ways in which the PLF could help support the BLM employees during the difficult time of public controversy over livestock grazing, OHV use and federal land ownership issues in Nevada, Utah and Texas. PLF President Ed Shepard and 13 Board members participated in the teleconference. It was decided that:

(1) PLF will write a letter to BLM employees citing our position that the public lands in the National System of Public Lands managed by the BLM must remain in federal public ownership for public use and enjoyment, and thanking them for their dedication to the management of these public lands, and

(2) PLF will prepare a letter/paper to Congress, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Director of the BLM, citing the historical reasons why these public lands remain in federal ownership, and the monetary and conservation values they have for the public.

PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

Recent PLF advocacy activities include:

1. PLF's May 29, 2014 letter to BLM employees expressing PLF's support for the work they do for the citizens of the United States, the National System of Public Lands, and the communities where they live and work.
2. A PLF Op-Ed titled "Public Lands Belong to All Americans" which was issued May 1, 2014 after the Bundy incident in Nevada.
3. PLF's June 20, 2014 letter to Senate and House Natural Resource Committees transmitting a paper on "The Nation's Public Lands."
4. PLF's April 14, 2014 Statement before the BLM Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board.
5. PLF's April 10, 2014 Testimony to Congressional Committees on BLM's FY 2015 Budget.

1. PLF's May 29, 2014 Letter to BLM Employees which has been sent to BLM and is on the PLF's www.publicland.org website.

May 29, 2014

Dear BLM Employees:

On behalf of the Public Lands Foundation, I want to take this opportunity to express the full support of the Public Lands Foundation for the work you are doing for the citizens of the United States, the National System of Public Lands, and the communities where you live and work. As former employees of the BLM, we know of and appreciate the dedication and work ethic that you bring to the job every morning when you report for work. We also know it is not easy in these times.

Recent events involving the BLM have challenged you and made your work more stressful. This is unfortunate. People, dissatisfied with decisions made by the BLM, the Department of the Interior, or the Federal government in general, are using these recent events to "gang up" on you, the people who are out on the front lines implementing the laws passed by the U.S. Congress and working to improve and restore our public lands. It is not right, morally, ethically, or legally to threaten you or your loved ones with violence for doing your job implementing laws and regulations. We have been assured by BLM's leadership that these threats and illegal actions are being investigated by appropriate law enforcement agencies. If criminal violations have occurred, these people should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Lawlessness has no place in civil discourse and no place on the people's land. Experience has taught us that investigations and the judicial system often work slowly. You might not see the results of any actions for some time, but the wheels are turning.

Most of the recent events are being escalated by those who question the role of the Federal government in managing the public lands. This is not new. The ownership of these lands legally rests with the people of the United States. This has been determined in law and upheld by the courts for decades. The question has been resolved. Yet, there are people out there, including local, state, and National-level politicians who continue to push that agenda; not by appropriate legislative or judicial channels, but by attacking the people charged with carrying out the purpose of the laws.

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PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

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Despite the negative stories in the press, there are stories supporting you. I believe that the vast majority of Americans recognize each of you for your dedicated work. They recognize you for making their visits to public lands safe, for producing the commodities off the lands, for clean water, abundant wildlife habitat, and ample recreational opportunities; for maintaining the forests and rangelands, for fighting the wildfires, and for creating jobs in the communities. You do all this with the smallest budget of any of the Federal land management agencies, and yet you produce more return to the American taxpayer than any of the other agencies. You do this despite sequestration of funds, furloughs, and pay freezes. You do this because you are dedicated public servants.

The public also recognizes you as upstanding citizens in your community, as their neighbor, as the coach of their kids' sports team, as the community planner or school board representative, and as the volunteer EMT that comes to their aid in a medical emergency. You add a lot to the fabric of the local communities and you should be justifiably proud of what you do; on the job and at home.

Times may be a little tough at the moment. The BLM has been through this before and will get through this – because of you and your fellow workers. Be proud of what you do and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

/s/ Edward W. Shepard
President, Public Lands Foundation

2. PLF's Op-Ed, May 1, 2014

Public Lands Belong to All Americans

The recent incident in Nevada over the removal of unauthorized cattle from public lands garnered extensive national attention. It is unfortunate that this particular incident escalated into a "call to arms" to those disagreeing with the actions taken by the Bureau of Land Management, a Federal agency in the U.S. Department of the Interior. The incident quickly turned into an ex-

plosive situation with a high potential for serious injury or loss of life.

The BLM stopped the gathering of the cattle and withdrew its employees. BLM's decision has been characterized as a "victory" by the protesters and militias and they have been congratulated by some for their courage in standing up to the Federal government.

We disagree with this assessment. It took a great deal of courage on the part of the BLM to step down and put the safety of the public and employees first. It is not courageous to threaten the lives of employees and their families who are working within the law, their authorities, and who are enforcing court orders. To quote author Mary Anne Radmacher, "Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes it is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, 'I will try again tomorrow'." The Nevada case will continue to be pursued in various venues and, hopefully, brought to closure in a civil manner.

The Nevada incident once again renewed a long-standing debate about the rationale for having public lands and the Federal government's role in management of public lands today. That debate is not a new one. It has been addressed by multiple Congresses and Administrations, litigated in the courts, dealt with administratively through published regulations, and explained daily by BLM employees to those interested in public lands or seeking to conduct activities on public lands.

The debate over the role of the public lands, which belong to all Americans, will no doubt continue. But we are a nation of laws. And, the laws require enforcement. There are mechanisms in place for change in our system, but violence and threats should not be used, condoned or supported. A civil, rational discussion does not occur on the open range, with weapons pointed.

3. PLF's June 20, 2014 Letter to Congressional Committees which transmitted a copy of the PLF's Paper on "The Nation's Public Lands"

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PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

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The Honorable Mary Landrieu, Chairwoman
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 Chairwoman Landrieu and Ranking Member
Murkowski:

Recent incidents in the West have raised, once again, the dispute over the legal status and ownership of lands managed by the Federal government, particularly those lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) within the Department of the Interior.

The BLM is responsible for managing approximately 245 million acres of federal lands. Most of these lands are located in the 12 western States, including Alaska. These federal lands are what remain out of an original federally-owned public domain, which in the mid-1800s totaled more than 1.8 billion acres. Over the past 200 years, the Congress passed numerous laws that authorized the use and disposal of most of the original public domain lands to help settle and develop the West.

The debate over the ownership and management of the remaining 245 million acres is not a new one. It has been addressed by Congress, litigated in the Courts and dealt with administratively through published regulations. These 245 million acres, now known as the "National System of Public Lands" are owned by the citizens of the United States, and administered by their federal Bureau of Land Management.

The U. S. citizens have a unique heritage and treasure in their federal public lands, but few people actually know much about the background of public land ownership in the United States. We are sending you a copy of a paper entitled "**The Nation's "Public Lands" – From where did the public lands come? – What happened to most of the original public lands? - What should we do with the public lands remaining in public ownership?"**

The value of the public lands is indisputable as a legacy for future generations and as a contributor to

present day economies and quality of life. The revenues generated by activities on the public lands fuel local economies. As an example of their value, the public lands managed by the BLM contributed more than \$130 billion to the U.S. economy while supporting more than 600,000 American jobs in FY 2011.

This paper has been prepared by the Public Lands Foundation to help the public to understand the history of their "public lands," and why it is vital to keep these federal public lands in public ownership to meet the current needs of the public and to help meet the as yet unknown, and unknowable, needs of future generations. These lands are "posterity's property," and must be managed as such.

The Public Lands Foundation (PLF) is a national non-profit membership organization that advocates and works for the retention of America's National System of Public Lands in public hands, professionally and sustainably managed for responsible use and enjoyment by American citizens. PLF endorses and embraces the multiple use mission of the BLM. Members are predominantly retired employees of the BLM from across the United States and as such have spent their careers dedicated to the sound management of these valuable lands and resources. Many of our members spent their careers managing the public lands located throughout the West. They have personal knowledge of these lands and unparalleled expertise in their management.

The PLF is providing this information in hopes that it will assist you and your staffs in responding to constituent questions and concerns regarding federal land ownership and management.

Sincerely,

/s/ Edward W. Shepard, President

Identical letters sent to:

The Honorable Doc Hastings, Chairman
The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio, Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

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Note: A copy of the PLF’s paper on the “Nation’s “Public Lands” - From where did the public lands come? - What happened to most of the original public lands? - What should we do with the public lands remaining in public ownership?”, which was sent with this letter, is posted on the PLF’s www.publicland.org website

4. PLF’s Statement to the BLM Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board, April 14, 2014

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to make a statement. The Public Lands Foundation members have thousands of years of collective experience managing natural resources. And, no one in the Foundation receives pay for Foundation work.

Our comments to the Board and to the BLM today will be limited to population growth suppression. We applaud the BLM for its March 2014 Request for Applications (RFA) to alert veterinarians, scientists, universities, pharmaceutical companies, and other researchers of the BLM’s need to develop new, innovative techniques and protocols for implementing population growth-suppression methods. We are hopeful that this RFA will produce results designed to help control the overpopulation of wild horses and burros on federal public lands. However, we are concerned that any products of the RFA will likely take years, if not a decade, before they may have an impact on populations.

There does not appear to be any management activity that is dealing with the fact that horse and burro populations are continuing to grow in a largely unfettered manner. There is little room for debate that the impacts from increasing numbers of horses and burros grazing year around are adversely affecting rangeland conditions with a resultant negative impact on wildlife, soils, and water sources.

The Public Lands Foundation has, on numerous occasions, requested that the BLM convene a group of wild horse experienced veterinarians and other appropriate scientists knowledgeable about long-term fertility control drugs. And, that the group be charged with making recommendations for immediate large-

scale use and field study of existing long-term fertility control drugs along with recommendations for monitoring populations and herd behavior. Concurrently, BLM should begin the process of securing permission from the EPA to use the drugs that would be field-tested. These long-term fertility control drugs should be field tested on a large-scale basis following protocols and monitoring regimens recommended by the experts. Large-scale tests can complement ongoing pen research.

We are now asking, why is there no apparent consideration given to this request, a request that holds the potential for limiting population growth until more effective population growth alternatives can be put in place? Funding for these large-scale long-term field tests could possibly come by redirecting funds from the adoption program where the average cost per adoption last year was \$3,857. Quite possibly, the use of some adoption funds for gathers and administration of long-term fertility control drugs could prove to be more effective in the long run.

We do appreciate the near impossible job that the BLM has been tasked with; especially given the constraints it is currently operating under.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

5. PLF’s April 10 Testimony to Congress in support of BLM’s 2015 Budget

PLF President Ed Shepard’s April 10 statement to the House Subcommittee on Appropriations cited the benefits from the BLM public lands and focused on the issues associated with Wild Horses and Burros, wildfire suppression and O&C lands, and also endorsed the concept proposed by this Administration for the creation of a BLM Foundation to help leverage scarce budget dollars. The full text of PLF’s April 10 Testimony is posted on the PLF’s www.publicland.org website.

“It is our choices...that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities.”
— J. K. Rowling

THE PLF'S SECOND STUDENT CONGRESS

Twenty-one college students from ten states will gather in September for the Second Student Congress. After a short orientation session, the group will spend two days in the Apache Creek Wilderness near Prescott, Arizona. Following the wilderness experience, students will gather in Phoenix to formulate their recommendations for future management consideration. These recommendations will be presented at the PLF annual Board of Directors meeting by one of the participants. Recommendations will also be presented to the BLM Director and Secretary of the Interior.

To help stimulate their thinking, the students will be joined by resource managers, policy makers and university professors. They will explore questions such as:

- What is the value and relevance of Wilderness to today's youth and to a diversity of future generations?
- How should land management agencies deal with the challenges of mixed land ownership?
- What is the role of technology in managing Wilderness Areas?
- How can we use this and future Student Congress sessions to move us toward developing a national land ethic?
- How should fire management issues in Wilderness areas with a wildland:urban interface be addressed?

Walter Echo-Hawk, who spoke at the General Land Office Symposium two years ago, will be the featured speaker at the banquet on the last night.

As a follow-up to the Student Congress, at least one of the students and PLF will have a display booth at the 50th Anniversary Wilderness Festival in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in October.

"I can accept failure, but I can't accept not trying." — Michael Jordan

PLF'S 2013 OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

Each year the PLF gives two outstanding Public Land Professional Awards to BLM Employees who have excelled in Managerial/Administrative and Technical/Operational positions. The 2013 Award winners were **Scott Florence**, Manager of the Arizona Strip District in Arizona, and **Roy Smith**, Water Rights Specialist in the BLM Colorado State Office. The award presentations were made on July 7 at the BLM Executive Leadership Team Meeting in Portland, Oregon.

PLF has been giving these outstanding Professional Awards each year since 1989. The names and photos of the 50 BLM employees honored to date are shown on the Awards page of the PLF's www.publicland.org website.

The following are the 2013 Award Citations:

Outstanding Public Lands Professional Award Managerial Category Scott Florence

Scott Florence's outstanding managerial and leadership performance during the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Northern Arizona Proposed Mineral Withdrawal and Public Land Order exemplify the managerial qualities deserving of the Outstanding Public Lands Professional Award for Managers.

The Proposed Withdrawal and EIS involved one million acres. The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Arizona Strip District, led by Scott Florence, managed 650,000 of these acres and the U.S. Forest Service managed 350,000 acres. These public lands are located on the north and south side of Grand Canyon National Park. The project was extremely political, complex, and viewed with intense public interest, especially in light of the mixed perceptions of the potential resources and water impacts from uranium mining in the Arizona Strip. Completion was a top priority for the Department of the Interior and the BLM.

To manage the project, two levels of management oversight were created. The first, the Executive Over-
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PLF'S 2013 OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

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sight Team, included executive level management of five federal agencies -Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Geological Survey. This group handled high-level coordination.

The second, the Management Oversight Team, was made up of field-level managers providing day-to-day management oversight with Scott Florence serving as its chairman.

Scott worked with representatives of local governments in southern Utah and in northern Arizona. As well, he assured tribal consultation with six interested tribes in the region.

Scott raised the bar on interagency leadership and coordination throughout the life of the project and took the initiative to make sure field level activities were well integrated with the Executive Oversight Team. Scott kept the withdrawal as his top priority, modeling effective leadership throughout the various communication and coordination efforts needed to bring the project to a successful conclusion. In addition, Scott set clear project objectives and held the entire group accountable to assure the team met its goals. Scott handled the conflicts and disagreements in a professional way, ensuring the agency partners were heard and recognized for their contributions.

Scott was seen as the ultimate collaborative and consultative leader, a great convener – always drawing all participants into the conversation and always very respectful of everyone's ideas and recommendations. He demonstrated his ability to lead and manage a very complex project under incredible political and social pressure and project timeframes. In the end, he effectively delivered a product to inform the Secretary's decision whether to withdraw or not withdraw the subject public land from mineral entry.

Scott Florence has demonstrated the managerial skills deserving of the Public Lands Foundation's Outstanding Public Lands Professional Award for Managers for 2013.

Outstanding Public Lands Professional Award Technical/Operational Category Roy Smith

Roy Smith's career as a water rights specialist has focused on significantly improving the ability of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to manage and protect water resources. Roy has helped to build BLM's reputation, skills, and effectiveness in dealing with state governments, which have been given the authority to allocate water. He also has focused on building the capacity of stakeholders to assist BLM in dealing with water resource management challenges.

As the BLM liaison to the "Upper Colorado River Wild and Scenic Stakeholder Group" Roy has educated the group on the requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The education process helped enable the group to develop a plan that meets legal requirements while empowering the group to develop water management alternatives. The alternative developed by the stakeholders who use water, recreate on the river, and manage water supply facilities was endorsed by Colorado's governor and chosen by BLM as the preferred river management alternative.

Roy has had a profound impact on the interdisciplinary team that reviewed and developed the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Southern Nevada Water Authority Groundwater Development Project. When interests wanted to minimize any long-term commitment to avoid and minimize impacts associated with groundwater development, Roy led the way in helping to develop a mutually agreeable, long-term plan that meets FLPMA requirements to "minimize damage to scenic and aesthetic values and fish and wildlife habitat or otherwise protect the environment."

Roy continues to work with a broad array of stakeholders to develop an innovative approach for implementing the water protection provisions of the

(Continued on Page 11.)

PLF'S 2013 OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

(Continued from Page 10.)

Omnibus Public Lands Act of 2009 as they pertain to the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness, located south of Grand Junction. Roy proposed an instream flow water reach in which wilderness needs as well as those of upstream land owners could be accommodated. Ultimately, the Colorado Water Conservation Board appropriated instream flow water rights based upon BLM's recommended approach.

One of the most challenging projects Roy has taken on is trying to secure flow protection for warm water fish species that appear on BLM's sensitive species list. On the lower San Miguel River in southwest Colorado the State of Colorado ultimately adopted BLM's protection proposal. In advocating for the proposal, Roy convinced state officials of the value of having protected flows and local control over water management rather than having a stream reach designated as critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act.

Roy has made a major commitment to work with the National Training Center to build and implement training courses that teach BLM employees how to utilize state water right systems to protect and manage resources. This effort by Roy has greatly enhanced BLM's ability to work with others to try to resolve water issues throughout the West.

Roy Smith's participation in numerous water management efforts has resulted in positive outcomes for public lands and the people who use them and warrants his recognition as the Public Lands Foundation's Outstanding Public Lands Professional Award in the Operational/Technical category for 2013.

2014 LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARDS NOMINATION DEADLINE NEARS

August 1, 2014 is the deadline for submitting nominations for the 2014 **Landscape Stewardship Awards**. So be sure to get your nomination in for your favorite private citizen or group that deserves to be recognized for their sustained contributions to the conservation and management of BLM's National

System of Public Lands. Nominations should be e-mailed to Beau McClure at bcmclure@cox.net. Guidelines for the award can be found on the PLF Awards page of our website at www.publicland.org.

DONATIONS

To Scholarship Fund: Gloria Austin

To PLF: John Case

SPECIAL DUES PAYMENTS

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Neil Morck Terry O'Sullivan
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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2014 OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

A reminder to BLM Managers and Supervisors - it is time to submit nominations for the 2014 Public Lands Foundation's Outstanding Professional Awards. Every Year the PLF recognizes the professionalism of BLM employees by presenting an award in each of the Managerial/Administrative and Technical/Operational categories. **The deadline for submitting nominations is November 1, 2014.** A call for nominations, including criteria, will be sent to each BLM Office. Award descriptions and criteria are available in the Awards link at www.publicland.org. Nominations should be sent to Rich Whitley, Chairman of the PLF Professional Awards Committee, by email at Richard@reallifetraininggroup.com or 550 NW Torrey View Road, Portland, OR 97229.

GEORGE D. LEA FOUNDER'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND AWARD Melanie Brown, First Recipient of the PLF's George Lea Founder's Scholarship

Melanie Brown, a senior in the College of Forestry, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon, received the first George Lea Founder's Scholarship, which was presented to her on May 13, 2014, by Dick Prather, PLF Oregon State Representative, during the College of Forestry Spring Awards Celebration in Corvallis.

Melanie was granted this scholarship of \$5,000 as recognition of her outstanding scholastic achievement, her extracurricular activities, and her desire to continue her education to advance the field of natural resource management.

In addition to the cash award, she has been invited to attend the next PLF annual meeting, which is to be held in Boise, Idaho, on September 9-12, 2014, as PLF's guest. PLF also has arranged for her to spend some time with one of BLM's local managers so that she can gain insight into the operations of a public land agency.

Melanie has a double major—Natural Resource Management and Bio-Resource Research with a Sustainable Ecosystems Resources option. She will be pursuing her Master's degree next year. Her outside activities include working with the Conservation

Biology Institute on modeling climate change to develop better management strategies. And, as it turns out, BLM is funding a research project on climate change that she is working on in the Great Basin.

Melanie and her husband, who is also a full time student, have two young (pre-school) children. And, both Melanie and her husband are working toward conservation and natural resource degrees. Melanie's goal after graduation is to "acquire work that focuses on natural resource conservation and climate change and that links resource assessment, restoration, management, and policy to real-time conservation implementation and future planning."

Melanie Brown was selected from a group of 37 applicants that responded to PLF's request for applicants from three universities—Boise State University, Colorado State University, and Oregon State University.

Applicants were required to: 1) provide demonstrated academic excellence—a minimum cumulative Grade Point Ave. of 3.00, 2) evidence of financial need, 3) be a junior, senior or Masters-level graduate student, 4) have a major in a natural resource or public land policy curriculum, 5) be a full-time student, and 6) include a copy of a letter(s) of recommendation and a resume.

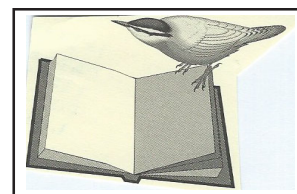
Details on next year's George Lea Founder's Scholarship program will be worked out at the PLF's next Board of Directors meeting to be held in Boise, Idaho on September 9, 2014.



George Lea



Dick Prather presents Melanie Brown with 1st George Lea Founder's Scholarship letter.



PLF'S "REMEMBERING BLM" WEBSITE SHUT DOWN

Ancestry.com will be retiring the MyFamily.com service starting September 5, 2014, including our website, Remembering BLM. To replace it, Bob Conquergood has established Remembering BLM on Facebook to replace it.

The Myfamily.com/RememberingBLM website was a private website that required a user name and password, it was restricted to BLM employees and retirees, and it was not open to the public. Originally, Larry Peterson, and then Bob Conquergood, controlled access to the website by providing interested individuals with a user name and password.

The new Remembering BLM website group on Facebook "is set up to share information among those, and only those, who are approved to be in the group while nonmembers can only see the title page with no other information. Membership is open to current, former, and retired BLM employees. Any member of the group can add new members who meet the above criteria and any member can post information that is pertinent to the group." No user name or password is required.

This new group, as you can see from the description, allows anyone who is already in the group to add new members, without a central control point, as Larry Peterson or Bob Conquergood were in the past. In other words, group members are on their honor to insure that anyone they invite to the group is a current, former, or retired BLM employee. Membership is growing very rapidly.

Adding members is relatively simple. They can be invited directly from the Remembering BLM group page using a dialog box that sends a Facebook invitation to any prospective member whose email address is entered and members can also directly add anyone they feel is appropriate and is on their individual Friends list by clicking on **Members** and then **Add People**.

PLF has established a Tech Tools Committee, which is looking into ways in which to improve our communication using new technologies available today

and social media. Using Facebook is one of the mechanisms being considered.

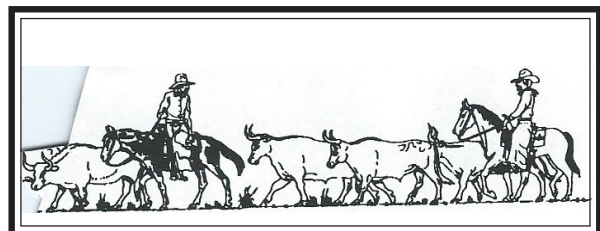
If you are interested in joining Remembering BLM on Facebook, contact Bob Conquergood at bcngrgd@roadrunner.com and he will add you to the group.

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

Saturday, September 27, 2014, is National Public Lands Day (NPLD). So please join thousands of other Americans this year and volunteer to help maintain and improve the nation's public lands and natural resources. Make a commitment to volunteer on National Public Lands Day and give back a little to the BLM in appreciation of the career it provided you.

This year, BLM has over 125 NPLD sites (more than any other agency) approved with activities including trash cleanup, trail construction, river restoration, weed removal, fence construction, graffiti removal and planting, to name a few. Just call the nearest BLM office for details, directions, and transportation, if needed.

Thanks to funding provided by the National Environmental Education Foundation and the BLM, PLF will again be providing small reimbursements for certain costs associated with BLM NPLD projects. The purchase of services, supplies and materials, which are difficult for BLM to obtain through normal procurement processes qualify for such reimbursements. For the second year now, PLF is also contributing \$2,500 of its own money to expand the program and provide additional opportunities for BLM offices to support volunteer efforts.



PLF'S REGISTER OF BLM RETIREES

The ninth edition of the PLF's *Register of BLM Retirees*, dated June 2014, is being sent to PLF members and BLM offices. This *Register* is reprinted every two years to facilitate contacts and communication between retired BLM friends and associates. We respect the privacy of our members and retirees, and we do not sell or otherwise distribute the information contained in the *Register*; and we request that members do the same.

The *Register* contains the names and addresses (or at least the last known addresses) of over 3,300 BLM retirees in 45 States and the District of Columbia. The numbers range from 683 retirees in Oregon to one each in Hawaii, Kentucky, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. In addition to the 683 retirees in Oregon, the *Register* shows that Idaho has 311 retirees; Colorado (293); Montana (355); Utah (246); Arizona (243); Wyoming (223); California (141); Alaska (133); New Mexico (138); Nevada (116); Washington (88); and the DC/Maryland/Virginia area (136).

Other State totals are Alabama (4); Arkansas (10); Florida (29); Georgia (6); Illinois (4); Indiana (3); Iowa (3); Kansas (8); Massachusetts (2); Michigan (3); Minnesota (4); Mississippi (4); Missouri (15); Nebraska (3); New York (2); North Carolina (14); North Dakota (4); Ohio (4); Oklahoma (19); Pennsylvania (6); South Carolina (2); South Dakota (8); Tennessee (11); Texas (31); West Virginia (2); and Wisconsin (6). We have no retirees listed in Connecticut, Rhode Island, Delaware, New Jersey, or Louisiana.

The *Register* is, of course, incomplete. As you probably know, federal government personnel rules prohibit the BLM from providing information about retirements and retiree addresses, so we have to rely on retirees and their friends and associates for names and addresses. If you have information about new retirees, deceased retirees, or changes of addresses, please send it to the Public Lands Foundation, P.O. Box 7226, Arlington, Virginia, or to GlendonE@aol.com.

"It is not enough we do our best; sometimes we have to do what's required."

— Sir Winston Churchill

My Public Lands, A NEW BLM MAGAZINE

BLM recently issued its inaugural edition of *My Public Lands*, "a magazine designed to give readers a glimpse into what BLM-managed lands have to offer," says BLM Director Neil Kornze.

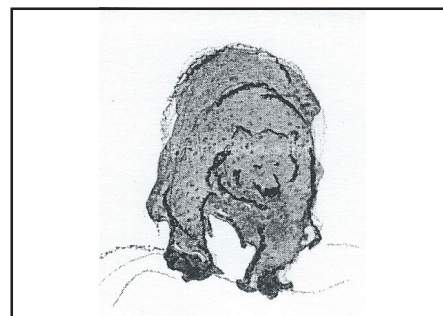
As our membership knows, the public lands administered by BLM provide countless recreational, cultural, and commercial opportunities. However, the large majority of the public has little, if any, knowledge of what the public lands are all about. This magazine, hopefully, will receive wide distribution and will help educate the uninformed and misinformed.

This first issue includes articles about:

- Caring for caribou habitat in Alaska;
- Blazing a new Oregon Trail near Portland for mountain bikers;
- Learning how a lighthouse on Florida's coast helped fight the Germans in World War II;
- Getting off the beaten path in New Mexico to see the "Great Houses" built by the Chacoan people 1,000 years ago; and
- Highlights of some of the best-kept secrets about your public lands.

"Many of the articles contain online links. Place your smartphone over QR codes or tap in the Web address to view more information about some of the greatest and most interesting places in America to live, work and play," according to Kornze in his introductory letter to Friends of the Bureau of Land Management.

These articles also can be found at www.blm.gov/or/mypubliclands, where the contents are also downloadable as an e-book. And, each individual article is posted in a linkable, reader-friendly format for your PC, tablet or smartphone.



IN MEMORIUM

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

John A. Austbo, BLM Forester in the Medford District Office, in Medford, Oregon, on May 15, 2014, in Jacksonville, Oregon.

Mary M. Baribeau, who was a Resource Assistant in the BLM Salem District Office in Salem, Oregon; on May 13, 2014, in Sublimity, Oregon.

Ross Duane Bordwell, BLM radio and computer technician in Alaska, on May 9, 2014; in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Craig L. Casner, who worked for the BLM in Fairbanks and Anchorage, Alaska, on June 11, 2014; in Anchorage, Alaska.

Betty Chamberlain, who worked for the BLM in Anchorage, Alaska, on March 28, 2014, in Anchorage Alaska.

Adam (Al) Alexander Christie, who worked as an Engineer for the BLM at Yuma, Arizona, on May 6, 2014; in Yuma, Arizona.

Ron Cole, BLM Civil Engineer, and Chief, Branch of Engineering in the BLM Colorado State Office, in Denver, Colorado; on May 7, 2014, in Highlands Ranch, Colorado.

Wayne Erickson, BLM Wilderness Specialist and Recreation Planner, on April 4, 2014; in American Forks, Utah.

Robert (Bob) Filback, who worked as a Forest Engineer in the BLM Salem District, on June 12, 2014, in Salem, Oregon.

John Farrell Greene, Transportation Manager for the BLM's Alaska Fire Service in Fairbanks, Alaska, on June 5, 2014, in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Monte Jordan, who worked as a BLM Realty Specialist in Ukiah & Folsom, California; Washington, D.C.; and at the Denver Service Center; on May 9, 2014, in Berthoud, Colorado.

Raymond (Rusty) Lee, BLM Field Manager at the Needles Field Office in Needles, California, on April 20, 2014, in Laughlin, Nevada.

John (Jack) Lewis, Fire Management Specialist in Alaska, on April 1, 2014, in Ormond Beach, Florida.

Eusebio (Chevo) Lopez, a firefighter for BLM, on May 26, 2014, in Caldwell, Idaho.

Charles W. (Bill) Luscher, BLM Forester, BLM New Mexico State Director in Santa Fe, and BLM Oregon/Washington State Director in Portland Oregon; on June 9, 2014, in Columbia Falls, Montana.

Cletus Richard (Dick) May, BLM Land Law Examiner, Realty Specialist and Lands Program Leader in Portland, Vale and Prineville, Oregon; Santa Fe, New Mexico; Washington, D.C.; and Sacramento, California; on March 22, 2014, in Salem, Oregon.

Douglas Glen Minton, a land surveyor for BLM in Alaska, on May 19, 2014, in Anchorage, Alaska.

Charles E. (Charley) Moseley, a smokejumper fighting wildfires for the BLM in Oregon and Alaska, on April 8, 2014, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Keith G. Moore, a land surveyor for the BLM, on April 23, 2014, in Readyville, Tennessee.

Richard (Dick) Thomas, former BLM Public Affairs Specialist in the BLM Arizona State Office on June 30, 2014, in Phoenix, Arizona.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Received from:

In Memory of:

Susan Peck Rust
Kathy Eaton
Elaine Zielinski
Audrey Sawicki
Champ Vaughn

Beth Walton
Beth Walton
Beth Walton
Art Tower
Cletus Richard
"Dick" May and
C.W. "Bill" Luscher
Dale Andrus and
Harold Berends
Roger Smith and
Beth Walton
Larry Peterson and
Paul Culpin
Otto Krueger
Ronald Cole and
George House

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Hank Hammersmark

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

- \$35 Regular
- \$50 Contributing
- \$50 Family
- \$100 Sustaining
- \$200 Sponsoring
- \$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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