

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: info@publicland.org

Editors:

Glen Collins

Patricia Harvey

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PLF'S ANNUAL MEETING

Phoenix, Arizona, September 22-25, 2015

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More than 100 members and guests attended the PLF's 25th Annual Meeting, which was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Phoenix, Arizona.

Tour of BLM's Agua Fria National Monument and Table Mesa Recreation Area. On Wednesday, participants toured the Agua Fria National Monument Badger Springs Wash Area located about 40 miles north of Phoenix. The BLM's Phoenix District manages this 70,900-acre unit of the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System that includes more than 450 archaeological sites spanning some 2,000 years of human history. Participants had the option of hiking a portion of the Agua Fria River and visiting a rock art panel, or hearing presentations about the Monument given by Monument staff and members of the Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument.

On the way back to Phoenix, tour participants had lunch at the Black Canyon Heritage Park where they learned of the accomplishments and goals of a coalition of local, state and federal entities, including the BLM, who are working to design, restore and maintain 30 acres of Agua Fria riverfront property. The Park is open to the public and provides information about the

Agua Fria National Monument, Black Canyon City and other local interests.

The last stop was at the Little Pan Off-highway Vehicle Staging Area within BLM's Table Mesa Recreation Area, a 11,557-acre block of BLM lands designated and designed for hiking, motorized recreation and recreational shooting uses by the recreating public from the nearby Phoenix metropolitan area.

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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

I just got back from the PLF Annual meeting in Phoenix. What a great job the Arizona PLF volunteers did! The meeting was a big success and the over 100 members and spouses had a wonderful time, thanks to the volunteers and the Arizona BLM staff and leadership that made this meet-

ing possible. The meeting theme was "Youth Initiatives and Community Partnerships," which was timely and fit well with PLF's emphasis of helping to get the next generation interested in public land management.

On Wednesday, September 23, the meeting started out with a field trip to the Aqua Fria National Monument located 40 miles north of Phoenix. As a Northwesterner, I am not accustomed to having to hike to look for water in a river. Rivers are self-evident in Oregon. However, after a short hike we did find some water. We also found several petroglyph areas and other evidence of the original cultures which lived on this high mesa 700 years ago. After leaving the Monument we traveled to Black Canyon Heritage Park for lunch and to hear from the partners that are working with the BLM to develop a visitor center for the Aqua Fria and to provide environmental education. We finished the trip with a stop at the BLM's Table Mesa Recreation Area where we heard some of the opportunities, challenges, and conflicts of managing hiking, motorized recreation and recreational shooting on an area a short drive from 3.5 million people. Throughout the field trip we heard from several of the many community partners that provide valuable services to the BLM and the public. This was a great way to kick off the meeting. Thank you, Rem Hawes, Field Manager, and staff of the Hassayampa Field Office in BLM's Phoenix District.

The plenary session on Thursday informed us of the many outstanding initiatives that Arizona BLM is doing to support youth and to work with community partners to manage the land. We started the meeting off by hearing from Deputy Director Steve Ellis on what is going on at the National level and from State Director Ray Suazo on Arizona BLM work. We then heard from several speakers that are working together with the BLM to provide training and work experience opportunities for students. The best part of the program was hearing from three of the former student interns who spoke to the many benefits they received from the program and how it has changed their lives. During the afternoon session we heard from several of Arizona BLM's many community partners on the benefits and challenges of working as a "Friends" group with the BLM. The afternoon ended with a presentation on a relatively new program, HECHO (Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the Outdoors) that is working to help connect Hispanic children with natural resources.

At the end of the meeting we had a delicious meal and heard some humorous stories of Bill Civish's experiences over the years, including one about his new suit and umbrella on his first trip to Washington, D.C. We concluded the evening by recognizing some of our outstanding members. Sharon Wilson received the PLF's Volunteer of the Year Award for the work she did to make the publication *America's Public Lands: origins, history, future* the high quality, professional document it is. Ed Hastey, Beau McClure, and Bill Luscher received Lifetime Service Awards. Ed and Sharon were not able to attend the meeting and will be presented their awards in another forum. Unfortunately Bill is no longer with us, and his daughter, Pam Cushman, was presented with his award. All of the recipients have contributed greatly to the National Public Lands, the BLM, and the PLF; they are truly deserving of the recognition.

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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
Public Lands Council
Western States Tourism Policy Council
Wilderness Society

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

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Something new was added to the meeting this year. Elaine Zielinski organized a silent auction of Southwestern articles and a raffle with the proceeds going toward the George D. Lea Founder's Scholarship Fund. This was a great success; \$2,100 was raised for the Scholarship Fund. Great work, Elaine!

The annual meeting is a good way to stay attached to the workings of our former agency and to reconnect with old friends. As we thank Arizona PLF and BLM for all of their work on the 2015 meeting, work has already begun to plan the 2016 meeting in New Mexico next September. I hope we'll see you there.

The Board of Directors met on Tuesday and Friday. We were joined by student board member, Jake Palma, and by the 2015 George D. Lea Founder's Scholarship recipients, Renee Sanders and Brian Andersen. These folks contributed throughout the meeting and helped present the perspective of the next generation of resource managers to the Board. This was the intent when we asked the students to join us and it is working. Listening to and observing these students gives you assurances that our National Public Lands will be well managed in the future.

There is not enough space in this column to cover all of the business items the Board discussed. We reviewed our work over the last year and decided what we wanted to work on in 2016. Some of the items for next year are working with BLM to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the BLM and the 40th of FLPMA, continuing to support youth initiatives, planning for and holding the 3rd Student Congress, working to increase membership, seeking ways to raise funds to continue the work PLF does and to fund the scholarships, and advocating for the National Public Lands. We will have a busy year!

We are looking for ways to improve the *Monitor*. One thing we would like to do is to add human-interest stories. BLM retirees are rich with history. Do you have a *petit memoir* or a humorous story of your BLM career that you would like to contribute? Send them to Glen Collins at GlendonE@aol.com. We'd love to hear from you and remember, stories get better with age and

we promise not to fact check.

Recently, BLM Director Kornze initiated a quarterly conference call with the PLF's Board of Directors. We held the first call on September 16th with 18 Board members participating. This call was an opportunity for the Director and Deputy Director to inform us on BLM actions and priorities and to hear from PLF board members. This first call focused on the many resource management planning efforts the BLM is undertaking, wildland fire and emergency rehabilitation and stabilization, and wild horses. We appreciate the Director reaching out to us and look forward to making these calls a standard part of our business.

Last week Secretary Jewell announced that the collaborative work done by several agencies, states, and stakeholders has resulted in a not warranted decision on the issue of listing the Greater sage-grouse as an endangered species. The BLM plays a major role in managing the habitat for this species and put forth its conservation strategy with the release of several Resource Management Plans throughout sagebrush territory. This decision is controversial and sure to be litigated, probably by both sides. If the BLM receives the resources and is allowed to pragmatically implement the plans, the sage-grouse will benefit, sound uses of the land will continue, and the agencies will be able to spend more of their resources on the ground rather than on the processes mandated by the Endangered Species Act.

Last spring the BLM announced that it was studying a proposal to combine New Mexico and Arizona State Offices. The PLF supports BLM looking for ways to improve efficiencies and put more money on the ground; however, we had concerns with this proposal, as did several other stakeholders. The BLM, using its study and the input from the public, decided to not go ahead with this proposal.

Well, the short summer is over and we are going into fall and the election season is well underway. I hope that you and your family survive the political wrangling and wish you well for the season and the upcoming holidays.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PLF'S ANNUAL MEETING

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General Session - Thursday

The Thursday morning general session opened with welcoming remarks from **PLF President Ed Shepard**, and **Arizona BLM State Director Ray Suazo**.



Ray Suazo, BLM
Arizona State Director



Steve Ellis, BLM Deputy
Director for Operations

BLM Deputy Director Steve Ellis thanked the PLF members for their contributions to the BLM and the public lands. He reported on "what's going on in the BLM," including a report on the historic and collaborative landscape-based decisions that have recently been made on sage-grouse habitat. He also pointed out that now comes the difficult implementation of those decisions. He reported that the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System program is a tremendous success and the BLM is now recognized by the Department of the Interior and the Congress as a conservation agency capable of managing special areas that formerly would have been transferred for management by other agencies.

The theme of the General Session was "**Youth Initiative & Community Partnerships.**"

Panel 1 on "Leveraging Partnerships for Youth Academics, Training & Employment," consisted of the following speakers:

- **Pamela Mathis, Moderator** – Associate District Manager, BLM Gila District Office;
- **Rem Hawes** – Manager, Hassayampa Field Office in the BLM's Phoenix District;

- **Steve Thorpe Ph.D.** - Professor, Hispanic Serving Institution, Phoenix College, and Director of the BLM-sponsored Environmental and Natural Resource Stewardship Program;
- **Steve Spangle** - Arizona Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Chair of You CAN AZ (Youth Careers & Academics in Nature in Arizona); and
- **Cynthia M. Spell Tweh** - Deputy Director, Economic Development, City of Phoenix, Phoenix Workforce Board.

The panel members described what the BLM has done in Arizona to bring the message about the BLM public lands to students and to get inner city youths interested and involved in activities and work projects on the National Public Lands. It all began in 2003 when the BLM Phoenix District brought wildland fire training to students in an inner city high school. That program has evolved into the Franklin Police and Fire High School which trains inner city students for public service careers that were unknown and unavailable to them 15 years ago. Similar public lands and natural resources programs are now being taught in three other Phoenix area high school programs and students are taken on field trips and participate in monitoring and collecting projects for the BLM. The BLM has helped Phoenix College develop an Environment and Natural Resource Stewardship Program that focuses on the public lands, and the College has created a two-year Associate of Applied Science Degree for the program.

Interior agencies help sponsor the "Youth Careers & Academics in Nature in Arizona" (You CAN AZ) project to educate youth on what the Interior agencies do and how they do it, and to help youth embrace the objectives of natural resources and train them for environmental stewardship.

The Department of the Interior has been briefed on what the BLM in Arizona is doing with youth in Arizona. The BLM has put a lot of resources into the program and wants other agencies to start using this pipeline of trained and interested youths.

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Pamela Mathis

Rem Hawes



Steve Thorpe



Steve Spangle



Cynthia M. Spell Tweh

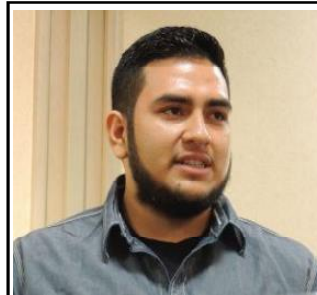
Three students who have been through the program offered the following comments:

Rodney Hunter: “It helped me develop an interest in public lands and got me a summer internship with BLM. I want to be part of a National Conservation Organization and want to help renew the use of renewable resources.”

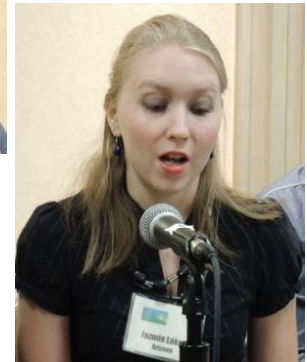
Jazmin Lakey “I credit the Field School with changing who I am, and getting me into a rewarding career field.”

Brian Pacheco “I got involved with the Field School

which introduced me to a new career in natural resources. It gave me experiences and memories that I treasure and will never forget. I want to be a wildland firefighter.”



Rodney Hunter



Jazmin Lakey



Brian Pacheco



Leslie Schultz-Crist, President & CEO, San Miguel High School

Luncheon Keynote Speaker Leslie Schultz-Crist, President and CEO of San Miguel High School in Tucson, described how the school teaches talented students from low-income families while they gain a

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professional work experience. **Mari John**, Director of their Corporate Internship Program, spoke of how the students work one day per week and go to school the other four days. A team of four students covers one Full Time Equivalent Position. **Vanessa Velazquez**, a Senior Student Intern at the BLM's Tucson Field Office, told about her educational and work experiences with BLM and how much she has benefitted from the program. The school has had a 98% graduation rate and a 100% college acceptance rate since 2004.

Panel 2 on "Community Partnerships" consisted of the following speakers:

- **Elena Daly, Moderator** - PLF Vice President for D.C. Affairs
- **Steve Eady** - Executive Director, Gila Watershed Partnership
- **Jeff Gursh** - Executive Director, Arizona Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition, and
- **Dan Puskar** - Executive Director, Association of Partners for Public Lands (APPL)

Steve Eady described the work being done by the Gila Watershed Partnership in the Safford, Arizona area to protect the Gila River watershed. The partnership has brought people together into strong, lifelong relationships with each other and with the BLM and Forest Service, which manage most of the lands in the watershed.

Jeff Gursh explained that the Arizona Off-highway Vehicle Coalition brings skills, money and volunteers to work on recreational vehicle trails. The organization can adopt trails after they are built, and it partners with law enforcement to make sure people follow the rules. He made a strong plea for BLM to do more to manage recreational shooting and to designate areas for recreational shooting.

Dan Puskar explained that APPL is a group of non-profit organizations advocating for the protection and wise use of the public lands. APPL does such things as provide educational materials to schools, help with resource inventories on public lands, and help to enforce the rules on the use of public lands.



Steve Eady

Elena Daly



Dan Puskar

Jeff Gursh

Panel 3 on "Friends and other Groups" consisted of the following speakers:

- **Henri Bisson, Moderator** - PLF Past President
- **Robert Weissler** - Vice President, Friends of the San Pedro River
- **Gail James** - President, Friends of Ironwood Forest
- **Liz Archuleta** - Arizona Spokesperson for HECHO (Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the Outdoors)

Henri Bisson explained that the establishment of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) has resulted in many Friends Groups being formed to help with the management of individual units of the NLCS. Friends Groups have been established by local people to raise funds, build projects, manage business centers

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and advocate for many of the NLCS areas. **Robert Weissler** and **Gaile James** described the work their Friends Groups were doing to help protect natural resources, manage public use, and provide interpretive services to the riparian lands along the San Pedro River and in the deserts in the Ironwood Forest area.



Henri Bisson

Robert Weissler



Gaile James

Liz Archuleta

Liz Archuleta explained that HECHO is an organization of Latinos who want to protect and preserve their centuries-old traditions that depend upon open space and the public lands. Many Hispanic families in Arizona have a five to six generational history of hunting, fishing and camping on the BLM public lands. HECHO members have a strong connection to the BLM lands; they want the BLM public lands kept in public ownership; they want to be included in the decision-making processes; and they want BLM to welcome HECHO into the family of groups that BLM consults with in planning for and advocating for the retention and protection of the BLM public lands.

Board of Directors Meetings - Tuesday/Friday

The PLF's Board of Directors met all day Tuesday and on Friday morning to discuss the variety of issues that are listed in the President's Column.

EVENING EVENTS

BARBEQUE - Wednesday evening

Following the tour of the BLM's Agua Fria National Monument, members and guests attended the PLF's annual barbeque which was held on the lawn of the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

AWARDS BANQUET - Thursday evening



Bill Civish

The Awards Banquet at the Crowne Plaza Hotel included entertainment by **Bill Civish** who told stories of his work experiences in the early days of his BLM career, and the presentation of PLF's Volunteer of the Year and Lifetime Service Awards.

PLF Volunteer of the Year Award

PLF Alaska State Representative **Sharon Wilson** was recognized by PLF President Ed Shepard for her work in illustrating the PLF's colorful **America's Public Lands: origin, history, future** publication. Unfortunately, Sharon was not able to be present to receive the award.

PLF Lifetime Service Awards

Ed Hastey, Charles W. (Bill) Luscher and **Beaumont (Beau) McClure** were honored with **PLF Lifetime Service Awards** with citations which read:

Ed Hastey Lifetime Service Award

The Public Lands Foundation grants to Ed Hastey
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its Lifetime Service Award for excellence in public land management. The Foundation provides this award to deserving members who have perpetuated and enhanced the proud tradition of public service.

Ed was born in Pacific Grove, California and graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in Logging Engineering. He started his career with the U. S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in June 1957, as a Forester in Medford, Oregon, working on road engineering. He later transferred to BLM's California State Office in Sacramento, first as a Forester, and later in charge of Civil Engineering.

In 1965, Ed went to Washington, D.C. as a Program Analyst, then Budget Analyst. With his hard work, in depth knowledge of field operations, and reputation as a quick study, he moved into the critical position of BLM Budget Officer in 1969. This was a time of tremendous growth as the BLM implemented the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) passed in 1969. Ed fought for, and was successful in getting, increased funds for BLM to fulfill its increased responsibilities. His excellent reputation as a straight shooter and knowledge of the BLM and its mission made him a frequent and respected visitor to Capital Hill.

Ed moved into the position of Assistant Director for Administration in 1971. Then, in 1975, Ed was appointed State Director in California, where he served for 4 years before going back to Washington, D.C. as Associate Director, the number two position in the BLM. Again, Ed's skills, persistence and credibility with Congress were major factors in increasing BLM budgets for the implementation of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

In 1981, Ed returned to California for his second tour as State Director, where he remained until his retirement in 1999. In his almost 22 years as State Director in California, Ed was on the forefront of many issues. His commitment to working with communities, local, state and other federal agencies, as well as a wide variety of interest groups, set the culture of how to conduct business in California, which remains today. He was a tireless worker, and dedicated to the BLM family.

Throughout his career, Ed was a supporter of bringing diversity into the BLM, believing that would make the agency more effective in accomplishing its mission and dealing with the wide array of constituents. He supported diversity in the program areas and saw that the BLM added expertise beyond the more traditional lands, minerals, range and forestry. He hired women and minorities who had not come up through the traditional career paths, seeing skill and potential in many people who might otherwise have been passed over. Ed was a key player in changing the face of the BLM to more closely reflect the demographics of this country.

In retirement, Ed is still willing to listen to anyone who approaches him for advice, or just wants to talk, continuing to be a force in many people's careers. He also has continued to work with BLM and other entities to accomplish many land transactions for the benefit of the public.

Ed Hastey has been a major influence on the BLM, and the BLM is better for it.

The Public Lands Foundation is honored to recognize Ed Hastey with this Lifetime Service Award.

/s/ Edward W. Shepard, President September 24, 2015

Ed Hastey was unable to attend and will receive his award at a later date.

Charles W. (Bill) Luscher Lifetime Service Award

The Public Lands Foundation grants to Charles W. (Bill) Luscher its Lifetime Service Award for excellence in public land management. The Foundation provides this award to deserving members who have perpetuated and enhanced the proud tradition of public service.

Bill was born and raised in Montana, where he quickly became an ardent outdoorsman and where his appreciation for the land and its resources began. He graduated from the University of Idaho, majoring in wildlife, range management and natural resource administration. He began his BLM career in 1957 in

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Winnemucca, Nevada as a range conservationist. He quickly moved into increasingly responsible positions in Elko, Nevada and Idaho Falls, Idaho. Bill earned a reputation as a smart, hardworking leader who demonstrated his care for his employees, his knowledge of natural resources, and his respect for the constituencies BLM served.

He did a tour on the Range Staff in the BLM's Washington Office working on new regulations for the BLM's Range program. While in the Washington Office he did a U. S. Aid Program assignment in Nigeria, and later was a range specialist in a cultural exchange with the then Soviet Union. Both assignments were productive, and due to Bill's exceptional performance, enhanced BLM's international reputation in the rangeland management field.

Bill served as the BLM's Associate State Director in Colorado in the mid to late 1970s; the BLM's State Director in New Mexico during 1981 - 1986; and the BLM's Oregon/Washington State Director from 1986 until his retirement in 1989. In these positions, he helped expand and diversify the BLM's workforce; helped implement the merger of the Minerals Management Service into the BLM; and provided strong leadership while addressing timber management, spotted owl, job-related, environmental, and other issues.

Bill Luscher is remembered by many people as a wise, kind man who truly cared about them. Two traits are cited:

- his sincere interpersonal skills, selfless approach, inclusiveness and encouragement of those who worked for him, and
- his astute political skill at maintaining a positive view of the future, rather than a short-sighted, short term and narrow political view of the issues at hand.

The mark of Bill Luscher's skills and success can be seen in the large number of people who worked with him, and who eventually became supervisors, managers and executives themselves in the BLM, the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior.

In retirement, Bill continued to be involved with the BLM and its new employees. For seven years he participated in the BLM's orientation for new employees - the "Pathways" sessions held at the BLM's National Training Center in Phoenix - where he continued to develop relationships with new employees to help them become successful in the BLM.

Bill Luscher passed away on June 9, 2014 in Columbia Falls, Montana.

The PLF thanks Bill for his exemplary service, dedication and leadership in helping the BLM better position itself to deal with the many issues of the 21st Century.

The Public Lands Foundation is honored to recognize Charles W. (Bill) Luscher with this Lifetime Service Award, which is presented posthumously.

/s/ Edward W. Shepard, President September 24, 2015

The Posthumous Award was received by Bill Luscher's daughter Pam Cushman of Laramie, Wyoming.



Pam Cushing receives her father's award from PLF President Ed Shepard

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Beaumont "Beau" McClure Lifetime Service Award

The Public Lands Foundation grants to Beaumont McClure its Lifetime Service Award for excellence in public land management. The Foundation provides this award to deserving members who have perpetuated and enhanced the proud tradition of public service. Beau exemplifies that tradition through a lifetime of service in managing and protecting the public lands.

Beau was born and raised in Woodlake, California, and graduated from Colorado State University in 1964 with a degree in Forestry. He began his forestry career with a private logging company in Oregon, but soon went to work for the Bureau of Land Management at the BLM's Tillamook Resource Area Office, in Tillamook, Oregon. His first job was marking trees for harvest.

In 1965, he was drafted into the U. S. Army and spent his two military service years in Georgia and Texas, before returning to BLM at Tillamook in 1967. In 1969, he was promoted to the BLM's Ukiah District Office, to work on timber trespass problems on public lands in northwestern California.

In 1974, Beau was recruited to the BLM's Washington, D.C. Headquarters Office and for the next 10 years he served as the BLM's and the Department of Interior's principle advisor, coordinator, and contact person for the implementation of the unique and special Alaska Statehood and Native Claims Settlement programs. This was a role that required him to spend a lot of time in Alaska, and to be effective in dealing with wide spectrum of Federal, State and Native American leaders.

In 1984, Beau moved back to the West into the position of Chief of Resources in the BLM's Arizona State Office in Phoenix. At the time of his retirement in 2005, he was serving as the Department of the Interior's Special Assistant for International Programs, stationed at the BLM's Arizona State Office in Phoenix, and helping to insure that the public land resources were considered and protected during Homeland Security actions to control illegal immigration and drugs.

Throughout his career, Beau McClure has been the ultimate program manager and staff person wherever he has served. His exceptional ability to plan, organize and provide oversight to public land management programs has benefited the public lands and the people who use them wherever he has served. And his accomplishments are well documented in the BLM and the Department of the Interior.

When Beau retired from BLM in 2005, he had a business card printed which reads:

Beau McClure
Border, Desert, and Natural Resource Issues
Coordinator, Meeting Organizer, etc.

He has continued to work nearly full time on these issues and in these roles for most of the past 10 years; however, not as a well paid consultant for private companies or individuals, but as the volunteer Vice President for Operations for the Public Lands Foundation.

Beau McClure brought the same talents to the PLF that he served him well in the BLM. He has helped reorganize the PLF, redefine its mission statement and its internal procedures, improve coordination between Board members and get their input to advocacy letters and activities. He leads the way in planning for PLF's Annual meetings and keeping the Board aware of and



Beau McClure receives award from PLF President Ed Shepard

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involved in issues affecting the BLM and the BLM lands.

The PLF thanks Beaumont "Beau" McClure for his career of service to the BLM, and for his untiring work over the years in providing expertise and guidance in the conduct of PLF's business and the holding of the annual meetings, as well as many other quietly performed contributions to the organization.

The Public Lands Foundation is honored to recognize Beaumont "Beau" McClure with this Lifetime Service Award, presented by PLF President Ed Shepard at the Foundation's Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona on September 24, 2015.

BALLOT FOR 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Be sure to fill out the 2016 Board of Directors ballot, which is an insert in this Fall edition of *The Public Lands Monitor*. Please vote for all National Representatives and your respective State Representative. Write-ins are permissible. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please indicate so on the "Comments" line. **Please consider paying your 2016 dues when you send in your ballot.**

**NEXT YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING
NEW MEXICO**

Make your plans now to attend PLF's 2016 annual meeting, which will be held in New Mexico during September. The location, dates and theme of the meeting are to be determined soon. Bring your spouses and enjoy seeing old friends and associates.



PLF Annual Meeting Group Photo September 22-25, 2015

Back (Fourth) Row: Jim Currivan, Jane O'Connor, Ken Mahoney, Elvin Clapp, Geoff Middaugh, John Kwiatkowski, Ken Harrison, Brian Andersen, Juan Palma, Jake Palma, Michael Thomas, Henri Bisson.
 Third Row: George Lea, Van Manning, Dean Bibbes, Phil Moreland, Lou Bellesi, Mike Ferguson, Ed Shepard, Ray Suazo, Bill Civish, Bill LeBarron, Lin Fehlman, Janice Kwiatkowski.
 Second Row: Wayne Winterton, Liz Archuleta, Glen Collins, Renee Sanders, Mary Kay Bellesi, Rosemary Thomas, Anna Steele, Billie Civish, Deanna LeBarron, Sylvia Gerber Bruce, Elena Daly, Elaine Zielinski, Kathy Pedrick.
 First (kneeling/sitting) Row: Beau McClure, Eric Janes, Smokey O'Connor, Connie Stone, Hank Noldan, Tom Allen, Dan Puskar, Linda Hofman, Jeff Gursh.

BLM AND PUBLIC LAND NEWS ITEMS
(taken from BLM National and State websites and news releases)

BLM announces Leadership appointments in three States - New Mexico, Nevada and California:

- **Amy Lueders**, who has been serving as Nevada State Director, will move to Santa Fe to become BLM's New Mexico State Director;
- **John Ruhs**, who has been serving as Eastern States Director, has been selected to be the Nevada State Director; and
- **Jerome (Jerry) Perez**, who currently is the BLM State Director in Oregon/Washington, will move to Sacramento to become the California State Director.

New District Managers in Alaska:

- **Mark Spencer** is the new BLM Anchorage District Manager and
- **Geoff Beyersdorf** is the new Fairbanks District Manager.

BLM to continue the Arizona and New Mexico State Offices: BLM had been exploring the possibility of combining the Arizona and New Mexico State Offices and directing more resources to the District and Field Offices. After listening to the feedback from partners and stakeholders, the BLM has decided not to move forward with the merger, and both the Arizona and New Mexico State Offices and both State Director positions will be maintained.

Kristin Bail has been selected to head the BLM's National Conservation Lands program: She comes from the Forest Service where she was a Forest Supervisor in North Carolina. She brings 30 years of experience in public land management in the BLM and the Forest Service in Oregon, Arizona, North Carolina and Washington, D.C., including a staff position in the BLM's National Conservation System. Her husband, Barron, retired from the BLM in 2010, after a 32-year career with the BLM.

15th Anniversary of the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS): On June 20, 2015, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, along with Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management Janice Schneider, and BLM Director Neil Kornze joined former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and other key conservation and community leaders at the King Range

National Conservation Area in northern California to commemorate the 15th Anniversary of the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System, a system that conserves, protects and restores nationally significant landscapes managed by the BLM. Babbitt established the NLCS in 2000.

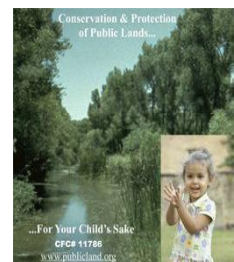
The National Conservation Lands contain some of the West's most spectacular landscapes including 872 congressionally and presidentially protected areas. This includes more than 30 million acres of National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas and Conservation Lands in the California Desert, as well as 8,000 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers and National Scenic and Historic Trails.

**COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN
REMINDER**

Federal civilian and military personnel can donate to the Public Lands Foundation dba *Conservation and Protection of Public Lands* through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). We are affiliated with Conservation and Protection Charities of America, a group of 30 National organizations dedicated to conserving and preserving America's natural resources. We truly appreciate those who support our organization by directing their CFC contribution to *Conservation and Protection of Public Lands* each year.

The Public Lands Foundation dba *Conservation and Protection of Public Lands* is fighting to keep America's Public Lands in public hands and preventing unstable and unsound timber cutting, grazing and mineral/oil production. This land is your land!

Your donation will help improve public lands for your children's sake and for generations to come. Questions? E-mail info@publicland.org.



**LETTERS FROM RECIPIENTS OF PLF'S GEORGE D. LEA
FOUNDER'S 2015 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

Dear Mr. Edward W. Shepard,

I am writing to thank you and the Public Lands Foundation for selecting me as a recipient of the George Lea Founder's Scholarship. As I understand, this was a competitive scholarship with plenty of worthy applicants, and I am incredibly grateful to be chosen out of such a talented pool of students. When I found out about this scholarship opportunity, I was immediately intrigued because I felt that it fell perfectly in line with what I am working toward regarding my education and future career goals. For me, there is no more important work than that of protecting our natural resources and wildlife, and this scholarship will help me take a major step forward in advocating for these resources. I am so grateful to have been given this opportunity from an organization that shares my passion.

I am a self-supporting student, and the financial contribution provided by the scholarship is nothing less than incredible. The funds from this scholarship will assist me with the cost of tuition, textbooks and other class materials, and living expenses. It will greatly alleviate my reliance on student loans that I have had to take out in the past.

Beyond financial assistance, I am truly looking forward to the professional opportunities that come with this scholarship. As I am very hopeful to one day be employed by a public land management agency, I am eager to shadow a BLM manager. I am certain that I will take away valuable insight from the experience. I am also looking forward to attending the PLF annual meeting and plan on absorbing as much as I can during my time there.

The support the Public Lands Foundation has shown for my aspirations has truly inspired me to push even harder toward my goals. Advocating for our public lands, wildlife, and other natural resources is what absolutely drives me in life, and it is encouragement from organizations like the Public Lands Foundation that let me know that I am heading the right direction. I cannot possibly express the depth of my gratitude. I can only stress how much effort I will apply to doing the absolute best I can for the resources we strive to protect.

Sincerely,
Ashley Renee Sanders, Phoenix, Arizona

Dear Public Lands Foundation,

I am writing this letter to thank you for selecting me as a George Lea Founders Scholar, and as a member of the second biannual student congress. I am incredibly grateful for the support that is being offered, not only financially, but beyond this in bridging the gap between generations. The support from the Public Lands Foundation has been incredibly beneficial in my growth as a Public Lands Advocate.

Last fall, I was a participant of the second biannual student congress, which proved to be a wonderful experience. It was incredible to be able to interface with the students that the foundation assembled. We were charged with the task of taking part in expanding and deepening our nation's Land Ethic. Although we have taken strides in this direction this ethic is far from where it needs to be. The work of the Public Lands Foundation to further this cause is not only honorable but greatly appreciated.

The members of the student congress came together to work on some legislative actions that could be taken to further this cause, which made sense as the student congress coincided with the fiftieth anniversary of the Wilderness Act. We were able to write several relevant recommendations, and build a broader network of young members who care about similar issues. This experience, helped me deepen my appreciation for Public Lands through being engaged in an incredibly meaningful action.

The George Lea Founder's Scholarship I am incredibly honored to receive. Financially, school costs are incredibly burdensome. I have been working two jobs throughout my collegiate career to support myself yet this does not come close to preventing me from accruing significant debt through school. This scholarship helps me be able to finish school, which I am incredibly grateful for.

I spent all of last week at the annual meeting for PLF, which proved to be very different from my expectations however, incredibly beneficial. It is not often that members of my generation get to receive mentorship from individuals who have succeeded in the field. Listening to stories I not only was able to learn about what the life of a BLM employee was, but deepen my appreciation for the history of the organization. This experience gives

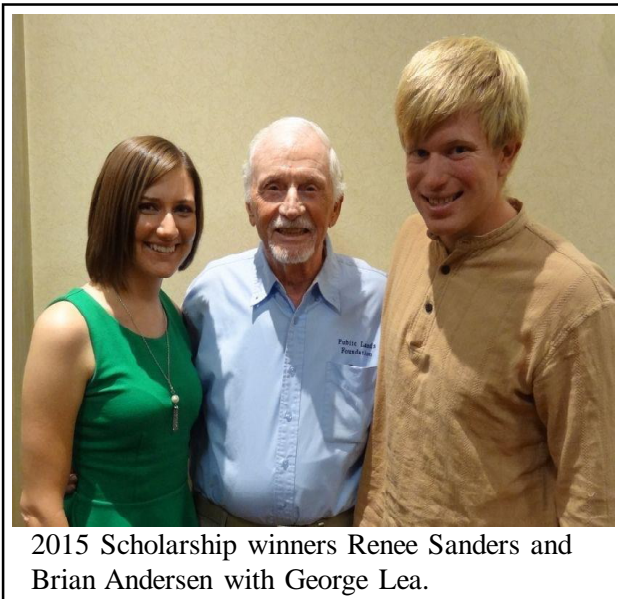
(Continued on Page 15.)

**LETTERS FROM RECIPIENTS OF PLF'S
GEORGE D. LEA
FOUNDER'S 2015 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

(Continued from Page 14.)

me a more concrete picture of the organization. Which I feel incredibly to have been able to experience. To express my gratitude completely is incredibly challenging, I have been shaped by experiences that this organization has been able to provide. Thank you so much!

Sincerely,
Brian Andersen



2015 Scholarship winners Renee Sanders and Brian Andersen with George Lea.

**DONATIONS TO THE GEORGE D. LEA
FOUNDER'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

William Ball
Glen Collins
Marvin LeNoue
Donald Seibert

Dean Bibles
John Fend
Geoff Middaugh

Donations to the Scholarship Fund through the Silent Auction held at the Annual Meeting in Phoenix.

Bill Civish
Elena Daly
Mike Ferguson
George Lea
Bonnie Manning
Kathy Pedrick
Anna Steele

Jim Currivan
Jeanie Fend
Bonnie Jones
Deanna LeBarron
Pamela Mathis
Deb Rawhouser
Rosemary Thomas

JOINING "REMEMBERING BLM"

Some of you can remember the old Remembering BLM website started by Larry Peterson and Gene Day; but that site is long gone, cancelled by the hosting company along with many other similar sites they were hosting.

The replacement for that old site is a private Facebook Group of the same name, which has similar requirements for joining participants must be either a current or former employee of the BLM (or a surviving spouse).

To join the Remembering BLM Facebook group you must be a member of Facebook and then send Bob Conquergood an email (bcnqrgd@roadrunner.com) requesting membership and including a brief history of your BLM employment. Another means is to friend Bob on Facebook and then send him a Facebook message with the brief history noted above.

Once you become a member you will get emails from Facebook regarding items posted on Remembering BLM. Those emails can be controlled by using the settings on your Facebook page.

If you need more information please email Bob Conquergood at the above address or call him at 208-699-9121.

PLF Past-President Henri Bisson has again agreed to match the first \$1000 that is donated to the Fund.

SPECIAL DUES PAYMENTS

Contributing Members

Barron Bail
Michael T. Green

John Fields
Joanie Losacco

Sustaining Member

John Freeman

Life Members

Richard (Rich) B. Hanson
Kathryn (Kathy) E. Pedrick

IN MEMORIAM

The PLF regrets to inform you that the following former BLM employees have passed on.

Paul Baker, who worked as an Equal Opportunity and Safety Officer in the BLMø Washington Office, on August 6, 2015; in Durham, North Carolina.

Kenneth Beckstrom, a Range Conservationist for the BLM at Elko, Nevada, and at St. George, Utah, on the Arizona Strip; on August 6, 2015; in Santa Clara, Utah.

Alfred Cunningham, Jr., who worked as a Maintenance Manager for the BLMø Northern District in Fairbanks, Alaska; on July 7, 2015; in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Chester Conard, BLM District Manager at Baker, Oregon; Winnemucca, Nevada; and Worland, Wyoming; on the Range Management Staff in the BLMø Washington, D.C. Office; and on the Denver Service Center Technical Staff in Denver, Colorado; on November 1, 2014; in Columbia Falls, Montana. (We are printing Chester Conardø obituary notice for a second time because we made a mistake in the spelling of his last name in our earlier notice. We thank those members who have contributed in Chetø memory.)

George R. Gurr, BLM Forester in Oregon, Wyoming and Washington, D.C.; Director of a Job Corps Camp in Price, Utah; District Manager at Vale, Oregon; Public Affairs Officer at Anchorage, Alaska; and Program Leader in Washington, D. C. for the BLMø Johnny Horizon Program; on July 31, 2015; in Sequim, Oregon.

H. Doyle Kline, who, for 14 years, served as BLMø Public Affairs Officer in the Washington, D.C. Headquarters Office; on August 25, 2015; in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Louis James (Jim) Langhoff III, who worked as a Forest Tech and Safety Manager for the BLM in the Medford District Office; on July 2, 2015; in Medford, Oregon.

Philip Marshall, who worked as a cartographer for the BLM at Boise, Idaho; on July 26, 2015; in Boise, Idaho.

Peggy Pearl Miller, who worked as a public affairs specialist in the BLMø Arizona Strip District Office in St. George, Utah; on June 30, 2015; in St. George, Utah.

John “Buster” Riley, who was a BLM District Manager in Montrose, Colorado; and Burns, Oregon; and later worked in the BLMø Washington Headquarters Office and Denver Service Center; on December 16, 2014; in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Buster Riley created the first list of deceased Grazing Service/BLM employees that has evolved into the PLFø Memorial Wall.

Robert (Bob) Sulenski, who worked in the Minerals Division in the BLMø Washington Office, on August 21, 2015, in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Larry Taddia, cartographic draftsman for many years in the BLMø Arizona State Office in Phoenix, Arizona; on September 24, 2015; in Cottonwood, Arizona.

Richard Wallace, who was a geologist for the BLM; on July 9, 2015; in Jackson, Mississippi.

Rex Zobell, who worked for the BLM in Billings, Montana; was District Manager at Lewiston, Montana; and a wildlife specialist at the BLMø Wyoming State Office in Cheyenne, Wyoming; on April 25, 2015; in Orem, Utah.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Received from:	In Memory of:
L. Paul Applegate	Buster Riley
Carolyn Droscher	Bob Chase, Bob Means and Chet Conard
Marvin LeNoue	Maurice Ziegler and Janet Singer

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.

Public Lands Foundation

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Phone _____

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Date _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

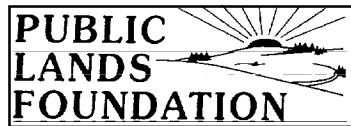
- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$50 | Contributing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$50 | Family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$100 | Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$200 | Sponsoring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$500 or more | Patron |

Public Lands Foundation Goals

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE - \$350

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