

For America's Heritage

# THE PUBLIC LANDS Monitor

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## 2016 PLF ANNUAL MEETING Las Cruces, New Mexico—September 13 - 16, 2016

Let's get together and have some fun. Make your travel arrangements and register now for the 2016 PLF Annual Meeting in Las Cruces, New Mexico. It all takes place September 13-16, 2016. **"Keep National Public Lands in Public Hands"** is the theme of this year's meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors and others interested in attending the Board Meeting on Tuesday, September 13, should plan on arriving in Las Cruces on Monday.

On Wednesday, September 14, we all will be taking an air-conditioned bus trip to visit some of the great resources that the BLM's Las Cruces District Office manages for all Americans. The \$22.00 cost of the tour helps pay a portion of the cost of the charter bus and includes a box lunch with a sandwich of your choice, chips, chocolate chip cookie, pickle spear and cold beverage. Sandwich choices are: **Turkey and Swiss, Ham & Swiss, Pastrami & Provolone, Roast Beef & Provolone, and Vegetarian.** Please make your Box Lunch selections on the back of the Registration Form insert included in this *Monitor*.

A **barbecue** will be held Wednesday evening at La Cueva in the Organ Moun-

tains, just 15 minutes from the hotel. Chicken, pulled pork and chopped brisket are on the menu, along with beans, coleslaw and corn bread.

Thursday, September 24, will include our full-day public meeting. Invited speakers include BLM Director Neil Kornze, Senator Tom Udall, Senator Martin Heinrich, and former BLM Director Jim Caswell, among others. **Lunch** is a Deli Style Buffet, which includes sliced turkey, ham and roast beef; assorted cheeses, Deli bread, sliced tomatoes, red onion, lettuce, pickles, potato salad, cookies, condiments, iced tea and water.

(Continued on Page 3.)

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

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

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Ed Shepard

Summer is here and some of you that I've talked to are really feeling the heat! When I hear the temperatures reported in the Southwest it makes me glad that I live in Oregon. We've had some hot days here, but I don't think we'll have any days over 110 degrees. I'll put up with the rainy winters and

let you folks in the southwest put up with the heat.

One thing we all have to put up with is the elections. Elections are a good thing and I will be voting, but I'm already tired of the campaigning and the TV ads we will be facing for the next four months. This year has been especially what's the right word?...interesting! The only thing we know for sure is that the election will result in a new administration that will have its own agenda. Hopefully, public land management will be a part of that agenda and it will include keeping the lands in the public's hands and helping the BLM move forward with its important multiple use mission. The Director has asked PLF to provide him with the top five priorities to be considered for BLM during the next administration. We appreciate the request and have solicited ideas. We are in the process of tallying the results and will be submitting them to the Director soon. Whoever takes over the reins will certainly have their hands full.

One of the things they will have on their plate is the issue of who should own and manage the public's resources and lands—the federal government, states, or private interests. Of course, PLF will be advocating to keep the lands in public hands, sustainably managed by experienced and well-trained professionals. This will be the theme of our annual meeting in Las Cruces, September 13-16. More information on this meeting can be found in this copy of the *Monitor*. We hope you will join us and participate in the discussion with the excellent cadre of speakers the organizing committee has put together.

Our colleagues in the BLM, Forest Service and other resource agencies are still faced with the threats of violence from those that do not agree with the way the lands are managed or who is managing them. Reading

the rhetoric some of these people put out, it is obvious that many of them don't have a clue; facts and the truth don't interest them. I was happy to see that law enforcement has been proactive lately and stopped the recent terrorism attempt on Mount Trumbull. Those arrested in other incidents, including Gold Butte and the Malheur occupation, are still going through the court system; several have plead guilty and are awaiting sentencing and others are awaiting trial.

The PLF continues the path we set out on about four years ago, supporting youth. This past spring we awarded the two \$5,000 George Lea Founder's Scholarships to deserving students looking to advance their education. Morgan Cardiel, a graduate student at New Mexico State University and Sydney White, a junior at West Virginia University are this year's recipients. More information on Morgan and Sydney can be found in the *Monitor*. We congratulate them and hope to see them at the meeting in Las Cruces.

The third biennial student congress will take place in Las Cruces just before our annual meeting. This year's congress will include 21 students from ten colleges across the country. The student congress has proven to be an outstanding opportunity for the students and for the BLM and the PLF. The students get the opportunity to meet and network with colleagues from other schools while they discuss some meaty issues with top experts in resource management and policy. The BLM and the PLF benefit from the fresh perspective and thinking of our next generation of resource managers, and from the products the students produce. This congress does not happen without the work of the organizing committee, dedicated volunteers, and speakers. Thank you to all that are working to make this congress a success.

Prior to our 2015 annual meeting in Phoenix, the mining disaster occurred near Silverton, Colorado that impacted the Animas River and had severe environmental and economic impacts in Colorado and New Mexico. We discussed the overwhelming job the BLM and other Federal agencies have to address this problem and decided to develop a position statement on abandoned mine lands. Eric Janes and George Stone took the lead and worked with others to develop a pro-

*(Continued on Page 3.)*

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

fessional, well-written paper on the Herculean task BLM has to address this issue. Like many BLM issues, it cannot be adequately addressed given the limited resources BLM is given. This position statement gives the PLF the basis to support the BLM as they move forward on abandoned mine lands. Thank you, Eric, George, and others that contributed to this statement.

In closing, I hope you all have a fun and safe summer. Remember the folks out on the fireline as it is likely they will have another exhausting season. I hope to see you in Las Cruces in September.

**2016 PLF ANNUAL MEETING****Las Cruces, New Mexico****September 13 - 16, 2016***(Continued from Page 1.)*

The **PLF banquet** will be Thursday evening. The banquet meal is a Buffet, which includes London Broil with romesco sauce, Pesto Chicken, traditional tossed salad, steamed vegetable medley, buttery home style mashed potatoes, warm rolls with butter, iced tea and water.

The Board of Directors will meet again on Friday morning, September 16, planning to be done by noon. We are considering an optional 1½-day PLF Bird Watching event in the Las Cruces area for those interested. The Las Cruces area offers a unique mix of habitats with an impressive diversity of bird watching opportunities. Initial plans are that the event would begin Friday afternoon following the Board of Directors meeting with an afternoon birding outing and followed on Saturday, September 17, with an all-day guided tour. A local professional birder could be hired as a guide, with the cost being split among those attending. If you are interested in participating, please indicate so on the enclosed Registration Form.

The Annual Meeting will be held at the **Ramada Hotel and Conference Center**, 201 E. University Avenue, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005. They have set aside a block of rooms at a rate of \$79.00 for a

Single King room, or \$89.00 for a Double Queen room, plus local taxes and fees, (currently the Room Tax is 13.3125% plus \$2.50 City Fee & \$2.50 Energy Fee). The rate includes a two-person occupancy, after which a \$5.00 charge will be added for each additional guest. You must make your own arrangements with the hotel by calling **575-526-4411** no later than Saturday, **August 27, 2016**. Please mention the **Public Lands Foundation** in order to receive the group discount rate.

The hotel's check-in time is 3:00 p.m. and the check-out time is 12:00 noon. The Ramada Hotel and Conference Center provides a complimentary continental breakfast, and complimentary wireless internet. Parking is complimentary for all registered guests.

The Ramada Hotel and Conference Center requires all guests to provide a valid form of photo I.D. at check in. The I.D. must be government approved, current and for the guest registered in the room. If you need to cancel your reservations, it must be done at least 24 hours prior to arrival to avoid any penalty.

The most convenient air travel to Las Cruces is through the El Paso International Airport. Rental cars are available at the airport. Also, the **Las Cruces Shuttle Service** provides shuttle service from the El Paso International Airport, which is a 45-minute drive to Las Cruces. Reservations are required. Check out [www.lascrucesshuttle.com](http://www.lascrucesshuttle.com) for fares, schedules and other information.

Following are two optional activities in the Las Cruces area for spouses who prefer not to attend the public meeting on Thursday:

- **White Sands Missile Range Museum & Missile Park**, White Sands Missile Range. The facilities focus on the origin of the U.S. missile and space programs, and the beginning of the nuclear age. The Missile Park features weapons that won the Cold War and Operation Desert Storm. It is located 22 miles east of Las Cruces, NM. Find out more at [www.wsmr-history.org](http://www.wsmr-history.org) Tel: (575) 678-8824.

- **Historic Old Mesilla Plaza**. Located off Avenida de Mesilla. Over 40 shops featuring traditional and contemporary arts and crafts from the southwest, Mexico and Central America.

*(Continued on Page 4.)*

**2016 PLF ANNUAL MEETING  
September 13 - 16, 2016**

*(Continued from Page 3.)*

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 27, 2016, for the reduced rate. If you have any questions, please contact Beau McClure by e-mail at [vpops@publicland.org](mailto:vpops@publicland.org) or by phone at 623-587-7883.

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**PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES**

**R**ecent PLF Advocacy activities include:

- April 13, 2016 letter approved by the PLF, along with 11 other member organizations of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, and sent to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Natural Resources opposing HR 4739, the Greater Sage Grouse Protection and Recovery Act of 2016.
- April 19, 2016 letter from the PLF to BLM Director (630) regarding Public Lands Foundation comments on BLM's Planning 2.0 initiative and draft.
- May 23, 2016 letter from the PLF to BLM Director Neil Kornze and BLM California State Director Jerry Perez regarding Proposed Rules for Shooting on Public Lands Managed by the BLM's Hollister Field Office in California.
- Position Statement PLF 2016-01, dated June 1, 2016, on the BLM's Abandoned Mine Lands Program, and
- June 22, 2016 National Horse & Burro Rangeland Management Coalition (NHBRMC) Testimony for oversight hearing entitled "Challenges and Potential Solutions for BLM's Wild Horse & Burro Program."

**Letter opposing HR 4739, the Greater Sage Grouse Protection and Recovery Act of 2016**

The Honorable Rob Bishop, Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raul Grijalva, Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 13, 2016

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva:

On behalf of the undersigned sportsmen, conservation, and resource professional organizations, we would like to respectfully communicate our opposition to HR 4739, the Greater Sage Grouse Protection and Recovery Act of 2016. This legislation undermines existing conservation plans that were developed explicitly to keep the sage-grouse off of the endangered species list. Indeed, that goal was achieved in September 2015 when the US Fish and Wildlife Service announced that the greater sage-grouse was "not-warranted" for listing.

The successful not-warranted decision came after years of coordination with the states; but that decision was fundamentally predicated on the strength of the federal conservation plans. Those plans do include mineral withdrawal in the best priority habitat, withdrawals that are essential to the not-warranted decision, and essential to the long-term viability of the greater sage-grouse.

HR 4739 would represent an unprecedented shift in the management authority of federal public lands. Across the 11 western states that comprise the greater sage-grouse range, the quality of state conservation plans varies widely, and most by themselves do not adequately address threats to the species. If based only on state conservation plans, the undersigned organizations are confident that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service would have been compelled to reach a different decision in September. This legislation would inappro-

*(Continued on Page 5.)*

## PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

*(Continued from Page 4.)*

priately force state management of the federal conservation plans, a recipe for potential range-wide failure and an Endangered Species Act listing. Also, state plans were not developed under the auspices of federal land management laws like FLPMA and NEPA and, thus, are unacceptable for broad application on public lands.

Success for the greater sage-grouse is defined as its continued management by the states. Because of the combination of strong conservation plans on federal public lands, coupled with state conservation plans and voluntary efforts from private landowners, states continue to manage sage grouse. Future management by the states depends heavily on immediate and consistent implementation of all these combined efforts. It is also important to note that more is at stake than the sage-grouse. The sagebrush ecosystem is home to more than 350 different species of plants and animals, including such iconic species as mule deer, pronghorn and elk. If we can continue to successfully conserve sage-grouse and sagebrush, we will help prevent a cascade of future listings that could seriously impact the western economy.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue, and we look forward to working with you moving forward.

With regards,

Signed by the PLF & 11 other Coalition Organizations

Cc: House Committee on Armed Services  
Cc: House Committee on Appropriations

### **Public Lands Foundation comments on Planning 2.0 initiative and draft**

April 19, 2016

Director (630)  
Bureau of Land Management  
1849 C Street NW, Room 2134 LM  
Washington, DC 20240

ATTN: 1004-AE39

Dear Director:

The Public Lands Foundation wishes to thank you and your staff for updates and proposed changes to the Land Use Planning regulations, also known as Planning 2.0. The 244 pages of proposed regulations, 6,000 public comments, explanations and rationale is daunting in its scope, but yet simple in its approach. Overall, we'd like to say: Good job.

The Public Lands Foundation is a nonprofit national organization incorporated in 1987 to support keeping public lands in public hands, embracing multiple use management of the public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), as prescribed by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), and following sound environmental principles. We are a membership organization whose members are predominantly retired former employees of the BLM. As such, our membership represents a broad spectrum of knowledge and experience in public land management.

As identified in the proposed rule, land use planning is foundational to management of the National System of Public Lands. We agree, and the effort to streamline and customize the regulations to be more consistent with the language of FLPMA is commendable. We also agree that the changes as proposed are appropriate as they are targeted at legal stumbling blocks and inconsistencies in policies that have evolved since 1976. The result of these revisions will be better management of the National System of Public Lands, in concert with the vision of FLPMA.

The PLF appreciates this careful approach. This rulemaking makes clear the BLM, the public and others have matured in their approach to planning based on results achieved on the ground. This has led to this proposal to improve the existing system of integrated and landscape scale planning, rather than starting over with another new approach, or another current buzzword applied to planning. The detailed and careful selection of words, deference to the explicit language in

*(Continued on Page 6.)*

## PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

(Continued from Page 5.)

FLPMA, and careful identification of refinements that do not result in major changes indicates to us an acceptance of the traditional and field tested approach to planning. This results in an emphasis on making future planning more collaborative and transparent to the public who use, appreciate and share this National System of Public Lands.

We also appreciate the clarification in these regulations to carefully identify the responsible officials (the actual decision makers) who make the policy level choices between competing land uses and values identified in FLPMA. This careful approach leaves a wide degree of discretion to the responsible official in the field to implement the mandates of FLPMA, while still remaining focused on the principle (not concept) of multiple use and sustained yield.

We have seen the effects of new and innovative but untested new planning ideas. They each might have utility, but relying on one in one administration, then starting another in the next administration does not serve the field organization well. We are pleased to see these regulations return to the basic language included in the law in 1976 (as amended) to support these changes. Clarification of the intent, language, priority and use of areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC) is an example. In places, these updates are referred to as style changes but seem more basic in keeping with the language, and intent of FLPMA, as well as the experiences and refinements of field staff that have developed over the last 50 years.

Consistent with this careful approach is a clarification of what constitutes a resource use determination over what has previously been called management actions (page 74). This more precise language clarifies how current uses (traditional uses such as livestock grazing or mineral leasing, or fire management planning) can occur, and where restrictions may be warranted. This approach should help minimize the litigious and appealable aspect of almost every implementation action. We hope this works, because of the new challenges in changes on the land that exceed natural variability, such as climate, uncharacteristic fire, invasive species and changing demographics and economies in the western states.

PLF would like to request one specific addition to the regulations and that is a clarification of the word "significant." We've noticed that the word "significance" is used 28 times in this 244-page document, often as a noun, but also as an adjective and adverb. Rather than reinvent the wheel by providing a new definition, we suggest that these regulations link to the Council of Environmental Quality NEPA regulations, and use the defined concept of "significantly" to guide interpretation of this important concept. This definition is court tested and widely accepted. To this end, the definition of "significantly" would be the same as used in the NEPA regulations (43 CFR 1508.27), and help the public and decision makers interpret this important concept and use this definition consistently in planning.

The PLF has seen the advantages of collaborative planning, and working with groups to find consensus about the wicked problems of public land management. We think collaboration is important, and effective collaboration results when people on the ground can be creative and adapt to the local and regional circumstances. We feel that discretion must be left to the local managers to work towards consensus. Regulations should be general enough to provide for this local discretion, but specific enough to encourage and incentivize it. We know examples of other agencies who use regulations such as FACA and cooperating agency status to reduce collaboration. BLM and these regulations encourage collaboration, and this, we believe is a positive value of this approach. Again, good work.

Sincerely,

Edward W. Shepard, President

Cc: Honorable Neil Kornze, Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

One of the secrets in life is to  
make stepping stones out of  
stumbling blocks.

*Jack Penn*

## PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

*(Continued from Page 6.)*

**PLF's May 23, 2016 letter to Director Neil Kornze and State Director Jerry Perez regarding Proposed Rules for Shooting on Public Lands Managed by the BLM's Hollister Field Office in California**

Mr. Neil Kornze, Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
1849 C Street NW, Room 5665  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Mr. Jerry Perez, State Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1621  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Neil and Jerry:

The Public Lands Foundation (PLF) has a policy of not commenting on local planning documents or rules except that PLF chapters may provide comments within their area of interest. In keeping with that policy, we are not making specific comments on the Notice of Proposed Supplementary Rules for Shooting on Public Lands Managed by the BLM Hollister Field Office, California. Rather we are asking you to consider delaying any final action on the proposed Hollister rule until the implications and alternatives to the rule can be analyzed.

We also believe that comments should be directed to the officials at the level of the organization with the delegated authority to make the decision. In this case, we feel it is appropriate to write to you, Jerry, as the deciding official, and to you, Neil, as we feel rules like this have national implications.

Our concern is that the BLM is at high risk of creating an agglomeration of shooting-related rules that the public cannot reasonably be expected to be knowledgeable enough to comply with among the various management units they may visit. We have no issue with the offices implementing necessary shooting rules that relate to specific resource or safety concerns such as those that close an area to shooting near certain developments or areas of specific urban interface.

The proposed rule specifies distances with respect to shooting near roads or developed recreation areas or sties. These distances are not necessarily consistent with state and local law or between BLM management units. This concern raises the question of whether the better approach would be for the BLM to assimilate and enforce state and local laws insofar as state and local law would serve BLM's objectives.

The Hollister proposal has BLM creating its own concealed carry rule. It is unclear why BLM would create a concealed carry rule for the public lands in the Hollister management unit. A BLM perceived need for a concealed carry law for Hollister would necessarily suggest a similar need for any other area in the BLM where management considerations are similar or identical. In that case, how has BLM considered what it will do in states such as Arizona and Alaska where there are no concealed carry laws? BLM seems to be putting itself in the position of establishing a federal concealed carry rule without adequately considering its implications. Would not BLM in Arizona, for example, be in the position of having to give notice and mark entry on every travel way that crosses BLM managed land that those with concealed weapons must take them out of concealment?

It seems that the public would be better served if the BLM were to consider an agency-wide set of rules after analyzing the various state laws, especially those of the wildlife agencies that speak to firearm discharge. The PLF can be supportive of many of the proposed Hollister rules but has concerns that they are the precursor to unnecessary inconsistencies across management boundaries and in the case of concealed carry have not been fully analyzed on a BLM-wide basis. This could lead to confusion by the public and possible enforcement issues for law enforcement.

Sincerely,

Edward W. Shepard, President

*(Continued on Page 8.)*

## PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

(Continued from Page 7.)

### Executive Summary, Abandoned Mine Lands, PLF Position Statement 2016-01

The Public Lands Foundation (PLF) has developed this paper to identify and communicate concerns about the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) program. Based on publicly available information, discussions with the BLM, and other cited data, the PLF has identified nine issues related directly to the BLM's AML program funding and implementation that are of concern, and one issue related to coal mining on federal lands that has the potential to develop into a major problem for the American taxpayer. Our overarching concern is that by the BLM's own estimates, the AML workload far exceeds current funding levels to the point where it will take decades, maybe even a century, to clean up and remediate all of the AML sites in the BLM's inventory. The PLF identified concerns about the AML program. As a result, the PLF is establishing positions and making specific recommendations in these areas:

- Coal mining on Federal lands;
- Adequacy of AML Program Funding;
- Adequacy of AML Program Field Staff;
- Increasing size of BLM's AML Inventory;
- Availability of AML Inventory Data;
- Coordination with Mining Claimants and Potentially Responsible Parties;
- Watershed Risks;
- Proposed Hardrock Mining Fund;
- Good Samaritan Legislation; and
- Reform of Hardrock Mining on Federal Lands.

The full text of the Position Statement is available on the Position Statement page of the PLF's [www.publicland.org](http://www.publicland.org) website.

### June 22, 2016 Executive Summary of the National Horse & Burro Rangeland Management Coalition Testimony for oversight hearing entitled "Challenges and Potential Solutions for BLM's Wild Horse & Burro Program."

**Management Objective:** Sustain healthy rangelands that support a balance of multiple uses, including wild horses, wildlife, ecosystem services, and livestock.

### **Identified Problems in Reaching that Objective for this Committee to Address**

1. Wild horse and burro populations already greatly exceed ecologically-based objectives.
2. Populations of wild horses and burros continue to grow at exponential rates.
3. Bureau of Land Management has limited options available to manage wild horses and burros at identified objectives to protect the range and achieve mandate of law.

### **Section 1: Historical and Legal Context**

- Horses and burros are non-native species in North America; those present and free-roaming on western rangelands are the descendants of domestic stock
- The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 charges BLM and USFS with managing horses and burros found on certain public lands in a manner that is designed to achieve and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance
- Federal law requires multiple use of rangelands, including that of wild horses and burros

### **Section 2: Wild horse and burro population status and trends**

- 67,000 horses and burros reside on BLM managed rangelands with an AML of ~27,000
- ~45,000 horses and burros are in long- and short-term holding facilities
- 15-20% annual population increase; potential to double in size every 465 years

### **Section 3: Impacts of excess of wild horses and burros**

- A. Horse and burro health ó *starvation and dehydration are a likely result of overpopulation*
- B. Native wildlife ó *competition for water and food resources and habitat degradation*
- C. Rangeland ecosystem ó *soil compaction, spread of invasive species, desertification*
- D. Western heritage ó *reduced grazing, impact to recreational activities; local economies at risk*
- E. Taxpayer dollars ó *\$50 million spent on horses and burros in holding; costs continue to rise*

(Continued on Page 9.)



**PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES**

*(Continued from Page 8.)*

**Section 4: Available Management Actions Identified by the Coalition for Congress' Consideration**

- Achieving population objectives that balance wild horse and burro populations with the needs of rangeland health will require the application of multiple management activities
- Congress needs to provide and direct more management options for BLM to implement

**On-range: reduce populations & slow growth**

- Increase gathers and removals
- Increase use of fertility control
- Apply sterilization techniques
- Create non-reproducing herds

**Off-range: relieve BLM of budget obligations**

- Increase adoptions via incentives
- Authorize euthanasia
- Permit unrestricted sale
- Increase budget for holding

**Section 5: Conclusions and Recommendations**

- Congress should encourage and empower BLM to implement management to protect our rangelands

Note: The NHBRMC is composed of 15 member organizations, including the PLF, that advocate for commonsense, ecologically-sound approaches to managing horses and burros to promote healthy wildlife and rangelands for future generations.

The full testimony is available on the PLF website at [www.publicland.org](http://www.publicland.org) under "Current and Past News."

**BLM AND PUBLIC LANDS NEWS**

(taken from BLM National and State websites and news releases)

**BLM returns to work in Gold Butte Area of southern Nevada:** BLM is resuming work in the Gold Butte region near Las Vegas. The Gold Butte area contains important habitat for the Desert tortoise; it is home to world-renowned rock art and other ancient

cultural sites, and is a popular outdoor recreation destination for hikers, campers and sightseers. Due to safety and security concerns, the BLM has not conducted any fieldwork in this area since early 2014. BLM Director Neil Kornze, and BLM Nevada State Director Jon Ruhs were accompanied by a Clark County Commissioner and the Captain of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Force on a June 20 visit to the area. Some of the area's famous red sandstone formations have been impacted by vandals, a large Joshua tree has been illegally cut down and left on site, and there was evidence that cattle have trampled and overgrazed certain areas.

BLM will be assessing damage to cultural sites, coordinating with the National Park Service on repairs to communications infrastructure, with Clark County on road maintenance, and with local communities on projects to address the spread of noxious weeds and reducing the threat of wildland fire.

**The number of Wild Horses and Burros on Public Rangelands now 2.5 times greater than in 1971 when Protection Law was passed:** BLM has announced that more than 67,000 wild horses and burros are roaming on Western public rangelands - a 15 percent increase over the estimated 2015 population. These updated numbers show more than twice the number of horses on the range than is recommended under BLM land use plans. Wild horse herds consistently double in size every four years. Adoptions, which averaged about 8,500 horses per year in the early 2000s, are now down to roughly 2,500 animals per year. The cost for lifetime care of an animal removed from the range and kept in a corral approaches \$50,000 per horse.

To address these issues the BLM is taking a number of steps, including sponsoring a significant research program focused on fertility control; transitioning horses from off-range corrals to more cost-effective pastures, working to increase adoptions with new programs and partnerships; and requesting two new pieces of legislative authority - one to allow for immediate transfer of horses to other agencies that have need for work animals, and one that would create a congressionally-chartered foundation that could help fund and support adoptive efforts.

*(Continued on Page 10.)*

**BLM AND PUBLIC LANDS NEWS**

*(Continued from Page 9.)*

**Recent BLM Managerial appointments include:**

**Karen Mouritsen as the BLM's Eastern States Director.** Karen most recently served as Deputy Assistant Director for Energy, Minerals, and Realty Management in the BLM's Washington Office. She has also served as BLM's Budget Officer, and on details as Acting BLM New Mexico State Director, and as Associate District Manager in BLM's Las Vegas District Office in Nevada and Medford District Office in Oregon.

**Elizabeth Burghard as BLM's Medford District Manager.** Elizabeth began her federal career in 1998 as an archaeology technician in the Worland Wyoming Field Office, and has since worked in Buffalo, Wyoming and Cedar City, Utah. Most recently, Elizabeth was the Field Office Manager for the BLM's Cedar City, Utah Field Office.



**NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY**

**Saturday, September 24, 2016**, is the 23<sup>rd</sup> 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. National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest single-day volunteer effort for public lands. Each year, hundreds of thousands of volunteers celebrate at more than 2,000 public land sites in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. 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 100 NPLD sites 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 fourth 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.

Like us on Facebook at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/publiclandfdn>



Follow us on Twitter at:  
<https://twitter.com/PublicLandFdn>



Enjoy us on YouTube at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN1xue81zjyix7xhR65uSVQ>



**2016 LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARDS  
NOMINATION DEADLINE NEARS**

**A**ugust 15, 2016 is the deadline for submitting nominations for the PLF's Landscape Stewardship Awards Program. 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 the BLM's National System of Public Lands. Nominations should be emailed to Beau McClure at [vpops@publicland.org](mailto:vpops@publicland.org). Guidelines for the award can be found on the PLF Awards page of our website at [www.publicland.org](http://www.publicland.org).

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2016  
OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL AWARDS**

**A** reminder to BLM Managers and Supervisors: it is time to submit nominations for the 2016 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, 2016.** A call for nominations, including criteria, will be sent to each BLM State Office for further distribution to District and Field Offices. Award descriptions and criteria are available in the Awards link at [www.publicland.org](http://www.publicland.org). Nominations should be sent to Rich Whitley, Chairman of the PLF Outstanding Professional Awards Committee by e-mail at [Richard@reallifetraininggroup.com](mailto:Richard@reallifetraininggroup.com), or by mail at 550 NW Torrey View Drive, Portland, Oregon 97229.

**DO IT NOW**

**T**he above listed calls for nominations for PLF's Outstanding Professional and Landscape Stewardship Awards make it appropriate to include the poem "Do it Now" written by Berton Braley more than 100 years ago. The poem was widely circulated in the 1912 - 1915 era. It was good advice then, and it is good advice now.

**DO IT NOW**  
**By Berton Braley**

If with pleasure you are viewing any work a man is doing,  
If you like him, or you love him, tell him now.  
Don't withhold your approbation till the parson makes oration,  
And he lies with snowy lilies on his brow:  
No matter how you shout it, he won't really care about it,  
He won't know how many teardrops you have shed.  
If you think some praise is due him, now's the time to slip it to him,  
For he cannot read his tombstone when he's dead.

More than fame and more than money, is the comment kind and sunny,  
And the hearty, warm approval of a friend.  
For it gives to life a savoy, and it makes you stronger, braver,  
And it gives you heart and spirit to the end;  
If he earns your praise - bestow it, if you like him, let him know it,  
Let the words of true encouragement be said.  
Do not wait till life is over, and he's underneath the clover,  
For he cannot read his tombstone when he's dead.

There are many "doers" and "shes" out there who have praise "due them" for their contributions to the BLM and the BLM lands, and these PLF Outstanding Professional and Landscape Stewardship Awards provide ways to "slip it to them."

We encourage BLM employees and organizational units, PLF members, private interest groups associated with various public land issues, and local and State officials to submit nominations for these awards. The award criteria and procedures are explained on the Awards page of the PLF's [www.publicland.org](http://www.publicland.org) website.

When I slow down long enough to smell  
the roses, I usually see the beauty and  
all else that is ours to share.  
*Morgan Jennings*

## PLF's 2016 STUDENT CONGRESS

Plans for the 2016 Student Congress are continuing to take shape. We will have 21 students from 10 colleges all across the country. The event is scheduled for September 8-11 in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and will be held at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center, the same hotel as the PLF annual meeting the following week. Garrey Carruthers, former Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, will give the keynote address to open the Student Congress. He will address FLPMA, the Sage Brush Rebellion and the importance of public lands. Mike Pool will be the banquet speaker on Saturday evening. Jamie Skillen, John Freemuth, Linda Rundell, and Elaine Brong have all agreed to work with the students as advisors.

New Mexico State Director Amy Lueders has been very active in promoting the Student Congress to the rest of the Executive Leadership Team and encouraging other State Directors to attend.

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## BOOK REVIEW

### *Endangered*

By C. J. Box, (Putnam and Sons, 435 pages, 2015)

Reviewed for the PLF by **Geoff Middaugh**

C.J. Box is one of the most successful western mystery writers today, and his 17 books, stories and characters can always liven up a conversation at a campfire or over an adult fun beverage of your choice. I don't know if many PLF members know about C.J. Box, Wyoming author, observer and social commenter on the "new west" from a rural perspective. Box's primary hero is Joe Pickett, a State of Wyoming game warden who has a knack for wrecking trucks, getting in trouble with his bosses, upsetting politicians, and is a horrible shot with his service revolver.

His 17th book in the "Joe Pickett" series is worth picking up, and is right now (April 2015) a "New York Times" best seller. His recent book is titled:

*Endangered* (2015). It's about sage-grouse, the dark criminal side of rural poverty, and "haters." It revolves around a clever plot line with a sage-grouse lek massacre, the Endangered Species Act, and the difficult social life that rural kids often face. It also has a subplot involving a BLM special agent/biologist and a nerdy FWS agent/biologist. The complexity of maintaining their love interests in the small rural community in the Bighorn Basin is interesting, to say the least. It's a fun read.

If you haven't started the Joe Pickett series, I would highly recommend all of them, starting in the beginning with *Open Season* (2001). They are all clever, well written, and are true page turners with a western twist. His character development is well done, and he creates characters that are hard to forget. Nate Romananski and his .50 caliber handgun, falcons, and black and white moral character is just one unique example.

C.J. Box knows the new West, and he writes well of it, including the anti-government issues, and the complexities of wide open spaces. If you understand the West, the complex ownerships of federal and state agencies, and the concerns of rural populations, Joe Pickett is your hero. Plus, he has an amazing wife, and great kids. Joe's ever-present fights with bureaucracy are fun also, and we've all seen how this works. Sometimes he wins, a lot of the time he loses.

In my critique of Box, he often oversimplifies the organizational aspects of the BLM and Forest Service, and even state government in Cheyenne. In *Endangered*, he becomes a little preachy about health insurance, when it just seems out of place. And if you are from Washington, D.C., work for the FBI, and are a vegan, be prepared for the ridicule. Yet his writing about the sunsets, smell of western sagebrush, the springtime weather of Wyoming, and the descriptions of hard scrabble old western communities, is vibrant and real.

*Endangered* is a true page turner, and you are never sure how it is going to turn out. Pick it up at airport newsstands, and hang on for a fun ride through one of the more wicked issues involving resource management today, and the difficulties of being a father with a job at the same time.

## 2016 GEORGE LEA FOUNDER'S SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

This year PLF advertised the scholarships at New Mexico State University, Oklahoma State University, Texas A & M University, Delaware State University and West Virginia University. The two winners are:

**Morgan Cardiel** ó Morgan is a grad student at New Mexico State University. She is studying anthropology and received her bachelor's degree from NMSU. Morgan works part time for the City of Las Cruces Museum System setting up displays. She wants to have a career working for the protection of natural and cultural resources. She is working with the Las Cruces BLM Office to set up her shadowing detail.

**Sydney White** ó Sydney is a Junior at West Virginia University majoring in Wildlife and Fisheries Resources. She is a member of The Wildlife Society. Sydney wants to focus her career on threatened and endangered species and increasing people's awareness of human impacts on the environment. She is working with the BLM Washington Office Division of Wildlife and Fisheries to set up a shadowing assignment.

Morgan and Sydney are both hoping to attend the PLF annual meeting in September. Morgan will also be participating in the Student Congress.

The *Register* contains the names and addresses (or at least the last known addresses) of over 3,200 BLM retirees in 46 States and the District of Columbia. The numbers range from 690 retirees in Oregon to one each in Hawaii, Maine, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Vermont. The *Register* shows that the other BLM State totals are Idaho with 316 retirees, Colorado (292), Montana (256), Arizona (249), Utah (247), Wyoming (229), New Mexico (141), Alaska (134), California (133), Nevada (112), Washington (88), and the DC/Maryland/Virginia area (101).

Other State totals are Alabama (4), Arkansas (10), Connecticut (2), Florida (30), Georgia (6), Illinois (6), Indiana (3), Iowa (4), Kansas (8), Kentucky (2), Massachusetts (2), Michigan (3), Minnesota (6), Mississippi (4), Missouri (15), Nebraska (3), New York (2), North Carolina (15), North Dakota (4), Ohio (4), Oklahoma (19), Pennsylvania (6), South Dakota (7), Tennessee (11), Texas (32), West Virginia (4), and Wisconsin (4). We have no retirees listed in 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. We are asking each PLF member who receives the *Register* to review the addresses of the retirees in their State and in their address books, and, if you have information about new retirees, deceased retirees, or changes of addresses, please mail it to the Public Lands Foundation, P.O. Box 7226, Arlington, Virginia, or e-mail it to Glen Collins at [GlendonE@aol.com](mailto:GlendonE@aol.com).

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### PLF'S REGISTER OF BLM RETIREES

The tenth edition of PLF's *Register of BLM Retirees*, dated June 2016, is being sent to PLF members.

The *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.

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### PLF E-MAIL ALERTS

Keeping members informed about PLF activities and opportunities to participate is important. So is helping members to keep abreast about public lands issues in between editions of the *Monitor*. To do so, PLF is using social media on Facebook and Twitter, and has recently commenced periodic email alerts to our members. Our first email alert was sent in April to solicit volunteers to participate in the BLM/PLF Pathways Partnership project. Eight volunteers stepped forward!

*(Continued on Page 14.)*

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## PLFE-MAIL ALERTS

*(Continued from Page 13.)*

We hope that members will find these periodic email alerts of interest, but we need your help! First, please make sure we have your current email address. If you did not receive our initial message, please provide us with your current email address by sending a message to [info@publicland.org](mailto:info@publicland.org). Second, to ensure our messages reach your inbox rather than your spam folder, please ensure the domain [publicland.org](http://publicland.org) is included in your safe sender email list. To do that, search "Google email safe sender list," for example.

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## PLF NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON!

The PLF maintains its website at [www.publicland.org](http://www.publicland.org) for the benefit of members and the public. At the 2015 annual meeting our webmaster, Wayne Winterton, announced that he would be retiring from his volunteer position come the 2016 meeting in Las Cruces. PLF extends its deepest appreciation to Wayne for his service for the many years he maintained and updated our website!

Knowing the importance of maintaining a web presence, the Board of Directors determined that PLF should engage professional support. After extensive research, PLF awarded a contract to Gray Digital Group of San Antonio, Texas. Under the contract, the PLF website will be redesigned, maintained and updated using WordPress, a modern, up-to-date website platform. Engaging professional services will result in making the content easier to access, and will enable the content to represent more current news and issues. Content from special sections of the website, including the Memorial Wall, will be transferred into databases, making it easier and faster to access and search.

The website redesign project schedule is to have a prototype available for the Board of Directors to review in Las Cruces, and for the redesigned website to be launched shortly thereafter. The website address, [www.publicland.org](http://www.publicland.org), will remain the same. PLF will inform members when the new website is online through an e-blast message and our social media sites on Facebook and Twitter.

## DONATIONS TO THE GEORGE LEA FOUNDER'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Tom Allen  
L. Paul Applegate  
Gloria Austin  
Carolyn Dorscher  
Pat Harvey  
Linda Hofman  
David Mari  
James Monroe  
Frances Werner

## DONATION TO PLF

Estate of Jerry O'Callaghan

## SPECIAL DUES PAYMENTS

### Contributing Members (\$50)

Jim Binando  
Bob Cordell  
Levi Deike  
John Husband  
Bernie Hyde  
James Lambert  
Maureen Merrell  
Felicia Probert  
Frances Werner  
San Juan Mountains Association

### Sustaining Members (\$100)

Celia Boddington  
John Ruhs

### Life Member (\$350)

Helen Hankins

**IN MEMORIUM**

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

**George Belofsky**, Special Agent for BLM's Law Enforcement Program in the Washington, D.C. Office; on November 1, 2013; in St. Simons Isle, Georgia.

**William E. Claycomb**, worked in Lakeview District Office, Lakeview, Oregon; on March 19, 2016; in Taos, New Mexico.

**Melvin D. Crockett**, a BLM Forester in the Medford and Lakeview Districts in Oregon, on March 9, 2016; in Bend, Oregon.

**Ruth A. Dudleston**, a computer specialist in the Denver Service Center; on March 22, 2016; in Portland, Oregon.

**Verna May Fairlee**, worked in Cadastral Survey at the Montana State Office for 47 years; March 11, 2016; in Billings, Montana.

**Joseph A. Gibson**, Range Manager for the BLM in Farmington, New Mexico and Malta, Montana; District Manager in Lewistown, Montana; and worked in Washington D.C. and the BLM Montana State Office in Billings; on June 27, 2016; in Billings, Montana.

**Manuel "Pete" Gonzales**, BLM Land Examiner in Phoenix, Arizona and Planning Coordinator in Yuma, Arizona; on March 25, 2016; in Yuma, Arizona.

**Carol Hadley**, Secretary for five Nevada State Directors over a 30-year career; on May 2, 2016; in Reno, Nevada

**Mary F. Haworth**, Secretary for the BLM Oregon State Director; on April 20, 2016; in Hillsboro, Oregon.

**Gerald C. Johnson**, BLM Forester and supervisor of timber sales in the Eugene District Office in Oregon; on April 24, 2016; in Eugene, Oregon.

**Theodore "Ted" A. Klaseen**, Soil Conservationist in the Ukiah District Office; April 9, 2016; in Redding, California.

**Helen McMullin**, Computer Specialist in the BLM Idaho State office, on May 14, 2016; in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

**Carmen G. Pert**, Legal Clerk for the BLM in Santa Fe, New Mexico and Anchorage, Alaska; on April 1, 2016; in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**Emmanuel "Pete" Petersen**, Manager, Sacramento District Office; Chief of Resources, California State Office; Washington, D.C.; retired as Associate State Director, Oregon/Washington; on April 27, 2016; in Carmichael, California.

**Clayton Vernon "Butch" Peugh**, a Resource Area Manager in Boise, Idaho; on June 27, 2016; in Parma, Idaho.

**Agnes L. Radok**, Records Management Specialist, Canon City District Office, Colorado; on March 30, 2016; in Crystal Falls, Michigan.

**William "Dale" Rector**, a Civil Engineer who worked for the BLM in Oregon; on May 25, 2016; in Salem, Oregon.

**Darrell L. Rumley**, Forester in the Medford District, Oregon; on April 23, 2016; in Tacoma, Washington.

**Ronald J. "Martin" Younger**, various positions in Oregon, Montana, Utah and Washington, D.C.; on January 25, 2016; in Ogden, Utah.

**Bruce Whitmarsh**, BLM Forester and Resource Area Manager who worked in Lakeview, Oregon; Montrose, Colorado; and Miles City, Montana; on June 23, 2016; in Miles City, Montana.

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

**Received From**  
Tom Allen  
L. Paul Applegate  
Jan Bedrosian  
Sonya Cox  
  
Linda Hofman  
  
Becky Johnson  
John Kwiatkowski

**In Memory of**  
Clair Whitlock  
J. Kent Giles  
Arden Candy Johnson  
Nancy Rosson and  
Candy Johnson  
Bob Jones, Irving  
Senzel and Jennie  
Senzel  
Kelly Johnson  
Lloyd Ferguson and  
Janet Singer

# Public Lands Foundation

P.O. Box 7226 Arlington, VA 22207

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

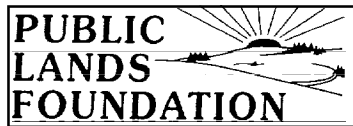
- \$35 Regular
- \$50 Contributing
- \$50 Family
- \$100 Sustaining
- \$200 Sponsoring
- \$500 or more Patron

### 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

**Public Lands Foundation**  
**P.O. Box 7226**  
**Arlington, VA 22207**



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WHAT'S INSIDE?	
2016 PLF Annual Meeting -----	1,3,4
President's Column -----	2-3
PLF Advocacy Activities -----	4-9
BLM and Public Lands News -----	9-10
National Public Lands Day -----	10
Call for Awards Nominations -----	11
Do It Now -----	11
PLF's 2016 Student Congress -----	12
Book Review: <i>Endangered</i> -----	12
2016 Founder's Scholarship Winners -----	13
PLF's Register of BLM Retirees -----	13
PLF E-Mail Alerts -----	13-14
PLF New Website Coming Soon -----	14
Donations/Special Dues Payments -----	14
In Memorium/Memorial Donations -----	15

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