

For America's Heritage

THE PUBLIC LANDS *Monitor*

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2013 PLF ANNUAL MEETING Medford, Oregon—September 11-13, 2013

Make your lodging and meeting reservations now! This year's Annual Meeting will be held on September 11-13, 2013, in Medford, Oregon; and you will not want to miss it. Plan on arriving in Medford on Tuesday, September 10, so that you can enjoy a tour of O&C forestry resources on September 11 in the Applegate Area and see some of the approaches to forest management being used by the BLM that include collaboration. Spouses are welcome to participate in the tour and all other activities. After the tour, enjoy a casual evening barbecue with former colleagues and friends.

On Thursday, September 12, our full-day public meeting will include a presentation on the history of the O&C forests, and panels discussing water, forest and wildlife resources and the social-economic values of these unique lands. Lunch will include a speaker to talk about current initiatives to resolve the management dilemma. The afternoon will include breakout sessions that will consider various management scenarios for future management of the O&C forests. The PLF banquet will be Thursday evening.

The Board of Directors will meet on Friday morning, September 13, planning to be

done by early afternoon.

An organized spousal event is not being arranged this year. However, spouses who prefer not to attend the tour on Wednesday or public meeting on Thursday can meet in the lobby at 9:00 a.m. to decide what activities they want to participate in that day. A list of activities will be available upon your arrival at the **Rogue Regency Inn and Suites**.

This year's Annual Meeting will be held at the **Rogue Regency Inn and Suites**, 2300 Biddle Road, Medford, Oregon 97504. They have set aside a block of rooms at a rate of \$79.00 plus tax, and you must make

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Retiring?

Join PLF & keep in touch
with BLM and friends.

FIRST YEAR IS FREE!
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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

The heat of summer is upon us and with it comes more distressing news from the Nation's Capitol. What is going on?! I sure don't know and it appears, by watching some of the Congressional hearings, that those who are supposed to know what's happening profess to not knowing. This disturbs

me for many reasons, but two come to mind that affect management of our Nation's public lands. First, while the Congress and Administration try to figure what-did-they-know and when-did-they-know-it, their attention is diverted away from passing budgets and attending to the business of legislation (maybe that's a good thing). Secondly, and of greater concern, distrust of the Federal Government is at its highest level in 40 years. It doesn't matter if information comes from the IRS, DOJ, NSA, or the BLM; people look at Government information with skepticism. Think of how that affects the 10,000 plus BLM employees who go into work every morning and do their best to do credible and important work for the American people. Through no fault of their own, whatever they do is tainted with mistrust from the very people they do it for. This is very unfortunate and may take many years to overcome. But, it's been done before. Many of us worked under the shadow of Watergate.

If you've been following the media, you know that the National Academy of Science has released their study of the Bureau's Wild Horse and Burro program. I have not read the 600+ page report, but, like most things of this nature, it has things you can like and dislike. Many of the horse advocates have already used it to poke a finger in the Bureau's eye, because it has pointed out things that have not worked well with the existing program. Few in the BLM or from the interest groups would

argue that the current program is working well. Some things do need fixing, and this report may help in finding more sustainable and less costly solutions. Regardless, it will take a concerted effort from the BLM, the Department, Congress, and the stakeholders to develop a plan that takes the best of the NAS report and molds it with the multiple use mission of the FLPMA to reshape the program that works best for the horses, the resources, and the taxpayer. The PLF is uniquely qualified to help the BLM with this; and it is something that, I believe, we can and should be doing. You can find more information and a copy of the NAS study at http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13511.

The fire management agencies are already very busy with what appears to be a very active fire season. As I write this, there are fires across the Southwest and into the Great Basin. The season has already turned deadly with the fatalities of two homeowners in Colorado and the death of a Forest Service smokejumper, Luke Sheehy, in California. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and with the thousands of firefighters that will spend the next several months on the line.

Changing pages, I had the honor for the first time of presenting the PLF's Outstanding Employee Awards a few weeks ago. As reported in the last edition of the *Monitor*, these awards went to Bill Childress from the Las Cruces District and Jon Reponen from the Burns District. We presented the awards via videoconference call as part of a scheduled BLM Executive Leadership Team call. Linda Rundell helped State Director Jesse Juen present Bill's award, and I helped State Director Jerry Perez present Jon's. Principal Deputy Director Neil Kornze led the presentation and made some great remarks recognizing these two employees and the PLF. It wasn't quite the same as presenting the awards in per-

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PUBLIC LANDS FOUNDATION CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

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

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

(Continued from Page 2.)

son in Washington, D.C., but it was the next best thing and gave the entire executive leadership of the BLM the opportunity to witness the presentation.

Preparations for the annual meeting in Medford are progressing well, and I remind all of you to register for this meeting. September in the Rogue Valley is beautiful, and we are planning a fun and productive meeting. A warning, you will be asked to do some work. After a trip to the forest on Wednesday and listening to a couple of informative panels on Thursday morning, we will be breaking out into roundtable discussions of how the O&C lands should be managed in the future, if we held the pen to write legislation. I hope to see many of you there.

And finally, a big thanks to all of the volunteers in PLF. This organization would not exist without you. I am impressed with all of the work you do; tracking legislation and rule makings, paying the bills, writing reviews, publishing this newsletter, keeping track of all of the members, and the list goes on. I know that many of you spend several hours a week doing PLF business. Thank you for all you do!

2013 PLF ANNUAL MEETING

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your own reservation by calling them at (800) 535-5805. You will need to tell them you are with the **Public Lands Foundation** to get this room rate. Reservations need to be made by August 27, 2013. Reservations made after this date will be on a space available basis. The hotel has a made-to-order hot breakfast plus beverage in its restaurant for \$4.99 per person. It has complimentary transportation to and from the airport.

There are many exciting things to do in the Medford area (World Class Shakespeare in Ashland, floating or fishing the Rouge River, attending a concert at the Britt Festival, etc.) and the hotel will give you this same rate if you come early or stay late.

Your meals while in Medford are:

Wednesday Field Trip Boxed Lunch—Assorted Sandwiches (Ham, Turkey or Roast Beef with Cheese), with whole fruit, chips, two cookies and soda or bottled water.

Wednesday Evening Barbecue—Pulled pork and chicken with side dishes and lemonade or ice tea.

Thursday Luncheon Buffet—Tri Tip with Mushroom Bourguignon Sauce, Chicken Piccata, Tossed Green Salad with Dressings, Fresh Vegetable Sautee, Wild Rice Pilaf, Chef's Choice Salad, Assorted Rolls & Butter, Coffee, Decaf or Iced Tea.

Thursday Dinner Buffet—Chablis Poached Salmon Filet with Dill Buerre Blanc, Roasted Pork Loin with Port Wine Cherry Glaze, Spinach Florentine Raviolli with a Light Butter Parmesean Sauce, Tossed Green Salad with Dressings, Cucumber Tomato Salad, Fresh Fruit Medley, Roasted Garlic Whipped Potatoes, Roasted Vegetable Ratatouille, Warm Assorted Rolls, Chef's Choice Dessert Platter, Coffee, Decaf and Tea.

Please fill out the Registration Form (see insert in this *Monitor*) and mail it before August 27 along with your check to Beau McClure, 6510 W. Lucia Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85083-7406. If you have questions, please contact Beau by e-mail at bcmclure@cox.net or by phone at 623-587-7883.

We look forward to seeing you there.

PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

PLF letter encouraging the appointment of a career professional natural resource manager as the next BLM Director.

April 12, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Secretary Jewell:

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PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

(Continued from Page 3.)

On behalf of the Public Lands Foundation (PLF), I am writing to encourage you to nominate a career professional natural resource manager as the next director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The PLF is a national non-profit membership organization incorporated in 1987 that advocates and works for the retention of America's Public Lands in the public's hands, professionally and sustainably managed for the responsible use and enjoyment of American citizens. PLF endorses and embraces the multiple use mission of the BLM as prescribed by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). Our members are predominantly retired employees of the BLM and as such have spent their careers dedicated to the sound management of these valuable lands and resources. The members represent the broad spectrum of knowledge needed for public land management.

The FLPMA gives guidance on the qualifications for the BLM director position. Section 301(a) of the Act provides that "*Appointments to the position of Director shall hereafter be made by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Director of the Bureau shall have a broad background and substantial experience in public land and natural resource management.*" Professional BLM employees and other natural resources professionals satisfy these qualifications, and we encourage you to consider them.

The new BLM director needs not only political savvy, but also the skills and competencies in natural resource management to lead the agency through the complicated decisions that he or she will be required to make. The BLM has several current and retired professionals that would serve well in the director position and have demonstrated their competencies as Federal executives.

As the new Secretary, you know well the many issues facing management of these lands and the complex trade-offs that need to be made. You have a difficult job in balancing the many demands on these lands. The PLF is eager to assist you in any way we can to place the best possible nominee for this position before the

Senate.

Thank you for your consideration. The PLF looks forward to working with you on the many issues that face management of the National System of Public Lands.

Sincerely,
/s/ Edward W. Shepard

Edward W. Shepard
President

PLF letter encouraging BLM to be more proactive in consideration and analysis of opportunities for recreational shooting.

June 25, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Kornze:

I am writing to encourage the BLM to be more proactive in consideration and analysis of opportunities for recreational shooting on public lands administered by the BLM.

In 2006, as you most likely know, the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and 39 organizations interested in hunting, fishing and shooting sports, including the Public Lands Foundation, entered into a *Federal Lands Hunting, Fishing and Shooting Sports Roundtable Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)*. This MOU recognizes that hunting, fishing, and shooting sports activities, including activities conducted at target ranges and appropriate dispersed shooting sites, are legitimate uses of public lands, except where specifically prohibited for safety or other reasons.

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PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

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The MOU, among other things, provides for the participation of these organizations in land management planning efforts to identify suitable areas for hunting, fishing, and shooting sports activities on federal lands and areas where access for those activities is inadequate on federal lands. Unfortunately, this has not been happening to the extent it was envisioned by the PLF and the other organizations that are party to the MOU.

Recreational shooting is a widespread and growing use on BLM public lands in the West, and it is a controversial issue in many of the Resource Management Plans (RMP) that are being prepared in the BLM Field Offices. Thus, we believe it is important that BLM ensure through its internal review process that the specific provisions of the above-mentioned MOU are complied with by the State and Field Offices.

In 2012, the Arizona BLM's draft RMP for the Sonoran Desert National Monument and the adjacent Lower Sonoran Desert Area proposed to close the Monument and the adjacent public lands to recreational shooting. To BLM's credit, Arizona BLM State Director Ray Suazo has now directed his staff to bring together recreational shooters and their organizations, BLM resource managers, and representatives of other public land user and conservation groups to try to find a way to safely accommodate recreational shooting in this large public land area southwest of Phoenix.

Currently there is a similar controversy in the Prehistoric Trackways National Monument managed by the Las Cruces District Office in New Mexico. We have seen some of the comments by recreational shooting organizations that are commenting on the RMP for that National Monument that offers only two alternatives - "no restrictions on the discharge of firearms" or "target shooting would be prohibited." We recognize that all activities within the units of the National Landscape Conservation System, including recreational shooting, need to be analyzed from the perspective of the documents designating them as part of the System, be it legislation or designation under the Antiquities Act. But, here again, it appears that recreational shooting has not been adequately analyzed as there is no middle ground where currently used sites by shooters would remain open.

It appears that New Mexico BLM could be forced to do what Arizona BLM is doing—go back and evaluate the opportunities for permitting an existing and very popular recreation use in some places in the National Monument.

Recreational shooting is a controversial issue, and there are varying opinions on that use even within the Public Lands Foundation, which as you know is an organization composed primarily of retired BLMers. But some of our members have been around for a long time, and we remember how concerned we were 40 years ago when we first heard of two new acronyms—ATV and OHV—which were then widely believed, in the BLM, to portend the destruction of the resources on the BLM public lands. However, over the years the BLM developed and implemented policies and procedures to provide for and govern off-highway vehicle uses on public lands. There are still problems and controversies over OHV uses of the BLM-administered lands; however, by accommodating these new recreational uses, the agency created a huge new support group of the recreating public from the urban areas of the West, who now insist that the National System of Public Lands be kept in public ownership and be available for public uses.

It appears that BLM has an excellent opportunity to learn from the issues surrounding off-highway vehicle recreation and apply some of the successes in that arena to recreational shooting. One example of successes to consider includes increased involvement and accountability by the diverse user groups involved in this type of recreation by participating in site steward activities.

We in the Public Lands Foundation are proud to have been part of the BLM, and to have helped build its reputation as an outdoor recreation agency. Recreational shooting is the agency's next recreation challenge. BLM needs to do an adequate job of evaluating opportunities for this use during the planning process, instead of being forced to do it after it has completed the draft RMP.

In 2008 and then again in 2010, the PLF looked into the issue of recreational shooting on public lands administered by the BLM, and we arrived at several

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PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

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recommendations that we believe would be useful for BLM to consider. I have enclosed the PLF's Position Statement, PLF 2010-13, *Recreational Shooting on BLM Public Lands*, for your information.

The PLF and other members of this Roundtable group stand ready to cooperate with BLM at the national, state and local levels for planning and implementing mutually beneficial activities related to hunting, fishing and shooting sports conducted on public lands, as contemplated in the MOU.

We hope you find these comments useful, and we look forward to working with BLM in an effort to improve the opportunities for recreational shooting within the National System of Public Lands.

Sincerely,
/s/ Edward W. Shepard

Edward W. Shepard, President

Enclosed: PLF 2010-13, *Recreational Shooting on BLM Public Lands*

Cc: Jamie Connell, Acting Deputy Director; Edwin Roberson, Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning; Joe Stout, Division Chief, Decision Support, Planning & NEPA; Carl Rountree, Director, Office of NLCS & Community Programs; Steven Cohn, Division Chief, National Landscape Conservation System.

Letter signed by 86 organizations, including PLF, supporting reauthorization of the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act.

April 22, 2013

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader, United States Senate

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader, United States Senate

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman, Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
United States Senate

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources, United States Senate

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Wyden and Ranking Member Murkowski:

On behalf of our respective organizations, we write in support of S. 368, the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act Reauthorization of 2013 (FLTFA reauthorization), a critical lands bill for the West. We urge you to advance S. 368 quickly through Committee and pass it in the Senate, in order to reinstate this important program as soon as possible. Our groups and many others are eagerly waiting for Congress to reinstate the program.

FLTFA is a common-sense lands tool that achieves economic and environmental goals. Through FLTFA's "land for land" concept, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sells lands identified for disposal, generating revenue for high-value federal conservation projects with willing sellers in the West. Through this balanced approach, the BLM has more capacity to sell land to private land owners, counties, companies and others for ranching, community development, businesses and various projects. The sales revenue fuels jobs and allows federal agencies to acquire high-priority lands with recreational access, historic significance, ecological importance and other conservation values. Before it expired, FLTFA funded 39 projects throughout the West, including creating public access for trout fishing along the North Platte River in Wyoming, hiking in the heart of Hells Canyon Wilderness in Arizona, and exploring ancient Pueblo ruins at Canyons of the Ancients National Monument in Colorado. The conservation purchases often enhanced the tourism and recreation economies of local communities through retail sales, hotels, restaurants, gas stations and more. FLTFA helped con-

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PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

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solidate inholdings to allow for better management of public lands.

The revenue also provides funding for BLM realty staff to conduct the program. Without the FLTFA program, BLM has very limited funding to conduct sales, appraisals, acquisitions and other real estate procedures that benefit communities, ranchers, farmers, businesses and others.

As the bill moves forward, we look forward to working with you and your staff. Please reauthorize FLTFA as soon as possible, in order to provide benefits for local economies, communities, agencies and conservation.

Sincerely,

Signed by 86 organizations, including PLF.

PUBLIC LAND NEWS ITEMS

(Sources - BLM News Release and website news services)

Hydraulic Fracturing Rules - The BLM is asking for public comments on proposed revisions in the rules for regulating hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas on public and Indian Trust lands. Approximately 90 percent of wells drilled on Federal and Indian Trust lands use hydraulic fracturing, and the current regulations governing the practice have not been updated since 1983. The proposed rules require operators to disclose the chemicals they use in fracturing activities, improve assurances of well-bore integrity to verify that fluids used during fracturing operations are not contaminating groundwater, and confirm that oil and gas operators have a water management plan in place for handling fluids that flow back to the surface. The public comments are requested by August 23.

Proposed Commercial Oil Shale Regulations - The BLM has extended until July 15, the public comment period on proposed commercial oil shale leasing regu-

lations, to make sure the royalty system produces a fair return for the public and that adequate measures are in place to protect the environment. The BLM is considering whether a single royalty rate or royalty structures should be set in advance or whether to retain some administrative flexibility to adjust royalty rates when more information is available about costs of production, energy inputs, and impacts associated with various emerging extraction technologies. The largest known domestic oil shale deposits are in a 16,000 square mile area in the Green River formation in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming.

BLM Renewable Energy Projects Approved by Interior Secretary Jewell - On June 2, 2013, Interior Secretary Jewell announced the approval of three solar and geothermal renewable energy projects in Arizona and Nevada that will generate 520 megawatts, enough to power nearly 200,000 homes. The 100-megawatt **Quartzsite Solar Project**, near Quartzsite in west-central Arizona will use concentrating solar “power tower” technology to drive steam turbine generators with heliostats on 1,600 acres of BLM lands. The 350-megawatt **Midland Solar Project** will be built on private lands near Boulder City, Nevada, and the associated transmission lines will cross BLM lands. The 70-megawatt **New York Canyon Geothermal Project and electrical transmission facility** will be built on 15,135 acres of BLM lands near Lovelock, Nevada. All three projects underwent extensive environmental review and public comment. The companies agreed to undertake significant mitigation efforts to minimize impacts to wildlife, water, historical, cultural and other resources.

National Academy of Sciences Research Committee Report on BLM’s Wild Horse and Burro Management Program - In two years of study, the NAS Research Committee looked at issues such as population modeling, annual rates of population growth, fertility-control methods, carrying capacity of various lands that support wild horse herds, genetic diversity of wild horse herds, and predator impact on wild horse population growth. Among other things, the research committee found that most free-roaming horse herds on public rangelands in the West are growing at rates of 15 to 20 percent per year. A population growth rate of 20 percent per year results in a herd’s doubling in size in four years and tripling in six years. The report will help BLM build on

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PUBLIC LAND NEWS ITEMS

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the reforms that the agency has taken over the past several years to improve program effectiveness, such as stepped up use of fertility control, additional measures to ensure the humane care of animals, and further program transparency.

BLM’s First Wild Horse Ecosanctuary is open for tours - The Deadwood Ranch, the BLM’s first wild horse ecosanctuary, is offering tours this summer. Owners Rich and Jana Wilson will drive interested people around their ranch to view horses on Friday and Saturday beginning June 28 and running through August 31. They can take a maximum of six people on the tours. There is a fee for the tours which will be conducted from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and need to be scheduled in advance. Special tours may be arranged upon request. The 4,000-acre ranch 30 miles west of Laramie, Wyoming, provides long-term care for 227 horses. For information on tours, call 307-399-9956.

BLM Resource Management Planning - BLM Resource Management Planning efforts are in progress in the Eastern Interior Field Office in Fairbanks, Alaska; in the Dominguez - Escalante National Conservation Area in Grand Junction, Colorado; in the HiLine and South Dakota Field Offices in Montana/Dakotas; and in the Tri-County area of Sierra, Otero and Dona Ana Counties in the Las Cruces District in New Mexico.

The Sunset Clause in the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act - The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, which passed in December 2004, authorizes federal land management agencies like the BLM, the Forest Service and the Bureau of Reclamation to charge fees for use of developed recreation site facilities on federal lands. The law contained a sunset clause which terminates this authority on December 8, 2014. While this deadline is still about 18 months away, the authority of the agencies to sell annual passes would end in December of this year, unless the recreation fee authority is extended by Congress. The issue is being discussed in public land subcommittees of Congress.

NEW PLF CHAPTER

The PLF Board of Directors has approved the establishment of the “BLM Retirees and Friends Oregon and Washington Chapter.” Those members of the Chapter who currently are not members of the national organization of the Public Lands Foundation may become members by providing their home address, e-mail address, phone number, and whether they are a BLM Retiree, BLM Employee, or other to Dwight Hempel, PLF Treasurer, by e-mail at djhempel@aol.com, or by regular mail at P.O. Box 188, Blue Diamond, NV 89004-0188. A Membership Form is available on our website at www.publicland.org. Those opting to become members of the national organization shall receive an initial complimentary membership through December 31, 2014.

Membership in PLF entitles you to receive PLF’s quarterly newsletter, *The Public Lands Monitor*, and a copy every two years of a “*Register of BLM Retirees*.” Other information will be provided periodically through your PLF State Representatives, primarily through e-mail, and through the PLF website at www.publicland.org.

Please notify all Oregon and Washington BLM retirees and friends of this opportunity.

OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

A reminder to BLM Managers and Supervisors - it is time to submit nominations for the 2013 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, 2013.** A call for nominations, including criteria, will be sent to each office. Award descriptions and criteria are available in the Awards link at www.publicland.org. Nominations should be sent to Tom Allen, Chairman of the PLF Professional Awards Committee, preferably by e-mail at tomallenplf@gmail.com or by regular mail to HC 64, Box 90, Deeth, Nevada 89823.

THE FORTUNA NATURAL RESOURCE AREA A COOPERATIVE EFFORT BETWEEN THE BLM YUMA FIELD OFFICE AND THE MESA DEL SOL COMMUNITY

By Rose Cummins

Mesa del Sol (MDS) is a community of approximately 2,500 single-family homes and condominiums nestled in the foothills of the Gila Mountains east of Yuma, Arizona. Former BLMers Gary and Rose (Berezowsky) Cummins claim this community as their retirement home. After moving to MDS several years ago, the Cummins learned that the properties on their street backed onto approximately 35 acres of desert land that is closed to motorized vehicles and is managed by the BLM Yuma Field Office. They learned that it has been difficult for BLM to enforce this restriction, in part because the boundaries of the area were poorly marked and there was no interpretive information.

While some violators purposely enter the area, most of the people who have driven into it were not even aware of the closure. Some folks have been fined for unauthorized access. Over time, the continued use by unauthorized vehicles has degraded the desert landscape and increased noise levels and blowing sand, adversely impacting MDS property owners, like the Cummins, whose homes back onto the closure area. Also within the closure area there is a sensitive plant, the Blue Sand Lily. This part of the Sonoran Desert is the only place where this plant is found within the United States.

In 2012, the MDS Property Owners Association (MDSPOA) contacted the BLM Yuma Field Office and asked if there was some way they could help BLM reduce the unauthorized access to this area. During the MDSPOA Annual Meeting last February, John McDonald, BLM Yuma Field Office Manager, laid out a plan to the property owners. This plan included placing large boulders at the east and west closure boundaries, providing additional signs, and erecting a kiosk that designates the area as closed to motorized vehicular use.

It was a wonderful plan, and it could be done at no additional cost to BLM or to MDS. The project was turned over to a group of BLM volunteers who built the kiosk with materials BLM already had, and they helped with the boulders. The boulders were donated from a nearby location by the Bureau of Reclamation. A

number of MDS property owners and the BLM volunteer interns worked together on a Saturday morning last March to erect the kiosk and install additional signs around the perimeter of the closure area. And they all enjoyed lunch afterwards at the Cummins home.

As a result of this joint effort, this area now has an identity. “The Fortuna Natural Use Area” has seen fewer violators enter its boundaries, although a few folks still ignore the signs. The property owners have noticed more people walking their dogs or jogging through the closure area. Some families even bring their children to play and learn about the desert right in their community. Gary and Rose now serve on the MDSPOA Board of Directors, he as Vice President and she as Secretary. And by adopting the “Fortuna Natural Use Area,” the Cummins and other interested MDS property owners will help BLM to care for and monitor the area. Everyone is hopeful that the positive trends continue and that, over time, the peace and beauty of this little piece of desert will be restored.



L to R: BLM Yuma Field Office Manager John McDonald, MDSPOA Vice President Gary Cummins, MDSPOA Secretary Rose Cummins and MDSPOA President Angie Mitchel.

PLF's OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

On Tuesday, May 21, 2013, PLF President, Ed Shepard, arranged for an awards ceremony for this year's Outstanding Public Land Professional Managerial/Administrative Award to Bill Childress, Las Cruces District Manager, and the Outstanding Professional Technical/Operational Award to Jon Reponen, Supervisory Forester for the Oregon Burns District, with participation by BLM Principal Deputy Director, Neil Kornze, BLM State Directors in New Mexico and Oregon, and others.

Due to BLM's sequestration and travel restrictions, the two ceremonies were held simultaneously in New Mexico and Oregon, with video-conferencing with the BLM Principal Deputy Director and the BLM Executive Leadership Team.



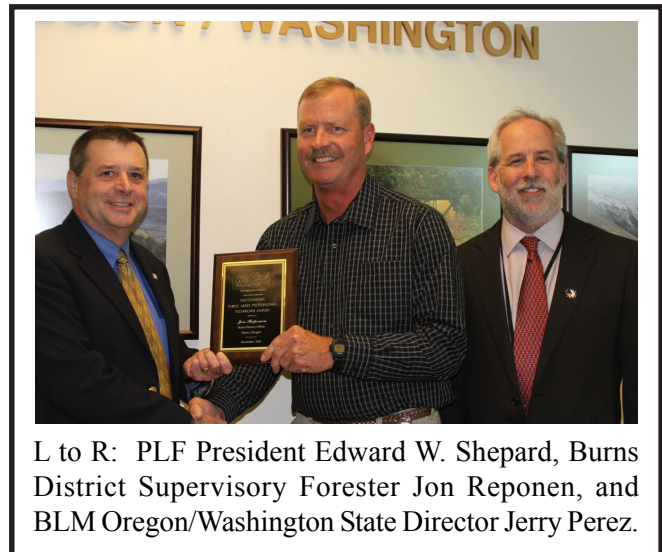
L to R: Former BLM New Mexico State Director Linda Rundell, Las Cruces District Manager Bill Childress, and BLM New Mexico State Director Jesse Juen.

The BLM issued a news release on May 21, 2013 that stated: "Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Principal Deputy Director Neil Kornze honored two BLM employees today at a ceremony held by the Public Lands Foundation. Bill Childress and Jon Reponen were presented with national awards for their commitment and exceptional dedication to managing America's public lands.

The first honoree is Bill Childress, the BLM-New Mexico Las Cruces District Manager, a position he has held since 2008. Bill received the Outstanding Public Land Professional Managerial/Administrative Award for his work on the highly controversial Alamogordo Regional Water Supply Project. Bill focused his work on creative problem solving and coalition building in order to engage stakeholders to resolve conflicts. He

demonstrated outstanding leadership throughout this project while maintaining the general leadership and direction of the Las Cruces District.

The Foundation also honored Jon Reponen, a Supervisory Forester for the BLM-Oregon Burns District, as the recipient of the Outstanding Technical/Operational Award. The award recognized Jon for his dedication to the District's stewardship activities and for his ability to "reach across the aisle" and work with various interests. His extraordinary performance in an operations/technical role in these and many other resource improvement activities within the Burns District have helped the district better manage public lands and collaboratively work with its partners.



L to R: PLF President Edward W. Shepard, Burns District Supervisory Forester Jon Reponen, and BLM Oregon/Washington State Director Jerry Perez.

"These employees represent what the BLM is all about; public service at its best," said BLM Principal Deputy Director Neil Kornze. "I am proud to be here today to recognize Bill and Jon for their commitment to America's public lands and for their exceptional passion and dedication."

The two awardees' achievements will be permanently inscribed on the "Hall of Fame Award" plaque at the BLM headquarters in Washington, D.C."

Each year since 1989, the PLF gives two Outstanding Public Land Professional Awards to BLM employees who have excelled in Managerial/Administrative and Technical/Operational positions. The names and photos of the 48 BLM employees honored to date are shown on the Awards page of the PLF's www.publicland.org website.

“THANK YOU” TO PLF VOLUNTEERS

PLF President Ed Shepard closed his President’s Column message by saying “And finally, a big thanks to all of the volunteers in PLF. This organization would not exist without you.... Thank you for all you do!”

Many of those who Ed thanked serve in Officer, State Representative, and Board Member positions, and get their names listed on the front page of the Monitor. But, there are also many volunteers who work behind the scenes to do the work of the PLF, without getting much, if any, special mention or credit. This is an appropriate time to recognize the voluntary contributions of the members who deserve Ed’s “Thank You.”

Pat Harvey in Potomac, Maryland, who formats the text of the *Monitor* and delivers it to the printer in the Washington, D.C. area.

The *Monitor* mailing team headed by **Jeff Holdren** and assisted by **George Stone, Bernie Hyde, Carl Enix, Eddie Wyatt, Bob Anderson, Bob Barbour, George Lea, and Pat Harvey**. This team meets quarterly in a room in the Dolly Madison Library in McLean, Virginia to prepare nearly 1,000 copies of the *Monitor* for bulk mailing to members and BLM offices.

George Stone, in Clifton, Virginia, who is PLF’s Coordinator of about a dozen State Employee Charities and PLF’s Representative for the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). He makes sure all annual applications to states and the CFC are timely submitted.

Bob Conquergood and the late **Larry Peterson** who for many years have administered the PLF’s Remembering BLM website, which serves over 300 members.

Wayne Winterton, the Administrator of the PLF’s www.publicland.org website, who has enhanced the quality of the website and particularly its Awards, Memorial Wall, and PLF Archives pages.

Phil Moreland, who for 12 years has maintained the records of the Public Lands Foundation Archives, which is located at the BLM National Training Center in Phoenix, Arizona.

Lee Barkow, in Golden, Colorado, who was a major Colorado PLF contributor to the planning for and follow up to the General Land Office Commemoration Symposium in Boulder, Colorado last Fall—“*The Nation Possessed: The Conflicting Claims on America’s Public Lands.*”

The members who serve on the PLF’s Awards, Communications, Development, Government Liaison, Historical and Investment Committees:

Tom Allen	Bob Anderson
Dean Bibles	Henri Bisson
Elaine Brong	Bob Buffington
Elvin Clapp	Glen Collins
Kemp Conn	Bob Conquergood
Pete Culp	Jim Currivan
Elena Daly	Kathy Eaton
John Fields	Mike Ferguson
Kim Harb	Pat Harvey
Dwight Hempel	Linda Hofman
Eric Janes	Curt Jones
John Kwiatkowski	Bill Lamb
George Lea	Bill LeBarron
Van Manning	Beau McClure
Shela McFarlin	Don Meares
Geoff Middaugh	Keith Miller
Mat Millenbach	Bill Ruddick
Ed Spang	Ed Tilzey
Champ Vaughn	Wayne Winterton
Chuck Wassinger	Sally Wisely
Elaine Zielinski	

As Ed Shepard said, “Thank you for all you do!!”

UPDATE ON THE GLO SYMPOSIUM

The first two products following last year’s GLO commemoration are now available. A four-page color brochure has been printed and is available through Mike Ferguson at mikef80403@yahoo.com. Copies will also be available at the annual meeting in Medford this September. The brochure includes a summary of the events and recommendations from the Student Congress, Roundtable and Public Lands Foundation. Ed Shepard and Mike Ferguson are in the process of setting up a trip to Washington, D.C. to brief BLM and DOI leaders on the results of the conference and begin distributing the brochures throughout BLM.

(Continued on Page 12.)

UPDATE ON THE GLO SYMPOSIUM

(Continued from Page 11.)

In addition a full report of all of the Boulder events is now posted on the Center of the American West website. You can view it at www.centerwest.org/thenationpossessed. The report includes: a summary of all the events; recommendations from the Student Congress, Roundtable, and PLF; the agenda; art contest winners; and the films produced by the students.

Elaine Zielinski, Beau McClure and Mike Ferguson are also working with the BLM National Training Center to produce a couple of DVDs from all of the footage that was taken at the symposium. The first DVD will be of Walter Echo-Hawk's presentation of the Native American perspective of the development of the United States. It will be called "The Dark Side of Manifest Destiny." Once that is completed, another DVD summarizing the entire symposium will be put together.

PLF's "WE ARE REMEMBERING BLM" WEBSITE

By Bob Conquergood

Larry Peterson, a retired BLMer and creator and longtime administrator of the PLF's "Remembering BLM" website, passed away on April 5, 2013, in his home in Fillmore, Utah. It is appropriate that we give some publicity to this website, and some credit and thanks to Larry for creating, promoting and managing this PLF social website during the last 12 years of his life.

With help from Gene Day, Larry developed and brought the website on line on March 14, 2001. Its official name is "We are Remembering BLM," but it is commonly called the PLF's "Remembering BLM" website.

Larry was not only the creator of the site, but also the promoter, the publicist, and the advocate for the website. His initial e-mail message to all PLF members explained that this is YOUR website, and it will be your participation that makes it interesting. The PLF's www.publicland.org site is geared towards informing

members and the public on public land issues. This Remembering BLM website is PRIVATE and is not available to the general public. Only those of us who are members of the Remembering BLM group and who have a user ID and password issued to them can use the site. It provides a means for renewing and maintaining social contacts between BLM retirees and friends. It is a place where you can post photographs, share news items, interact with other members, and maybe find an old friend you have lost track of.

Larry carried this message to PLFers and BLMers at PLF meetings and everywhere he went. He published an application for membership as a centerfold page in the PLF's biannual "Register of BLM Retirees." Through these efforts he grew the site to the current 362 members. Larry's initial foresight and conscientious work has resulted in a valuable asset to the PLF, which serves to keep memories of the BLM alive. Thank you Larry Peterson.

Over the past several years I have been helping Larry maintain the "Remembering BLM" website. I have now replaced him as website administrator, and the site still operates under the same concepts and procedures that Larry established. We would welcome new members. The application procedures are described on the "other websites" page of the PLF's www.publicland.org website, or you can contact me, Bob Conquergood, at bcnqrgd@roadrunner.com.

2013 LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARDS NOMINATION DEADLINE NEARS

August 1, 2013 is the deadline for submitting nominations for 2013 Landscape Stewardship Awards. So, be sure to get your nomination in for your favorite private citizen or group that deserves to be recognized for their sustained contributions to the conservation and management of BLM's National System of Public Lands. Nominations should be e-mailed to Beau McClure at bcmclure@cox.net. Guidelines for the award can be found on the PLF Awards page of our website at www.publicland.org.

**BLM RETIREE CORA BAKER
CELEBRATES A CENTURY OF
EXPERIENCE**

By Ed Shepard

How many of you know someone who is 100 years old? I'm privileged to say I do. Nearly 39 years ago I walked into the office in Rawlins, Wyoming to start my first job with BLM; fresh out of college, married, broke, and just a little scared of what I was getting myself into by moving to an energy boomtown. One of the first persons I met as I walked in the door of the Rawlins District was a smiling lady named Cora Baker. Cora helped me find my way around and helped me settle in. I knew that with people like her in the front office, I was going to be all right.

In the mid-1970s the Rawlins district was growing rapidly. The coal, oil and gas, and uranium boom along with the advent of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, brought a lot of us "kids" into our first job. Cora was there to greet us all. She not only helped us out at the office; Cora and her husband, Bert, were there to see that we made it in a new town. She became a "mom" to many of us early in our careers. Cora retired from the BLM in 1978 and eventually found her way to Mesa, Arizona, where she now lives.

On June 10th of this year, Cora reached a significant milestone in her life, turning 100 years young. On the 15th, my wife Terry and I, along with two other former Rawlins employees had the honor to join with Cora's family and friends to celebrate this great accomplishment in Olalla, Washington. Phil Range, retired in Brookings, Oregon, and Stan Frazier, currently working in the Oregon State Office, also attended. Cora was as sharp as ever and astounded us with her memory of people we worked with, spouses, and even children born while we were in Rawlins over 35 years ago.

Cora is a remarkable woman and attending her 100th birthday party is a memory we'll have for the rest of our lives.



Standing L to R: Phil Range from Brookings, Oregon; Edward W. Shepard of Newberg, Oregon; Stan Frazier with the Oregon State Office. Sitting: Cora Baker of Mesa, Arizona.

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

Saturday, September 28, 2013, is National Public Lands Day (NPLD). So please join thousands of other Americans this year and volunteer to help maintain and improve the nation's public lands and natural resources. Make a commitment to volunteer on National Public Lands Day and give back a little to the BLM in appreciation of the career it provided you.

This year, BLM has over 150 NPLD sites (more than any other agency) approved with activities including trash cleanup, trail construction, river restoration, weed removal, fence construction, graffiti removal and planting, to name a few. Just call the nearest BLM office for details, directions, and transportation, if needed.

Thanks to funding provided by the National Environmental Education Foundation and the BLM, PLF will again be providing small reimbursements for certain costs associated with BLM NPLD projects. The purchase

(Continued on Page 14.)

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

(Continued from Page 13.)

of services, supplies and materials, which are difficult for BLM to obtain through normal procurement processes qualify for such reimbursements. This year, 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. As of this writing, all of these funds have been obligated in support of 25 NPLD projects taking place in 2013.

SPECIAL DUES PAYMENTS

We want to thank the following members who have used one of the special dues categories to pay their 2013 Annual dues, or to make special donations to the PLF.

Contributing Members

Mike Green	Earl Hindley
Bill Luscher	Terri Raml
Karen Rice	John Wang
Jenna Whitlock	

Sustaining Members

Jim May	John & Amy Ruhs
---------	-----------------

Patron Members

Anadarko Petroleum Corporation

New Life Members

Mike Dombeck	Bruce Keating
Les Rosenkrance	Ed Shepard
Tom Steger	

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE PLF ARCHIVES

The PLF's Archives, located at the BLM National Training Center in Phoenix, Arizona continues to grow with materials received from BLM retirees and BLM Offices. Recent additions include:

- "Tales From the Tall Timber, 1957 - 1968" by Larry Woodward,

- "The Adventures of a BLM Public Affairs Officer" by Jan Bedrosian,
- "The Autobiography of Richard LeDosquet" with history of the BLM in Alaska, Nevada and Utah, by Richard LeDosquet,
- "Early Days of the Division of Grazing and Grazing Service" - Howard Delano's personal scrapbook,
- a silver belt buckle with the Grazing Service Officer badge on it, which was owned by Russell Rose, the Regional Grazier of Colorado from 1941 - 1946, and donated by Gene Kinch and Bruce Conrad,
- historical range management materials from the Battle Mountain, Nevada District collected by Mike Mitchel, and
- a historical collection of BLM Law Enforcement materials - documents, letters and photos - covering the 1970 - 2010 period, which have been assembled by retired Law Enforcement Officers Steve Martin and Felicia Probert.

The PLF Archives isn't just a collection of books, papers and photos. It has "objects" as well. In addition to the silver belt buckle mentioned above, other "objects" include:

- a bronze plaque which formerly helped mark the Lander Cutoff on the Oregon Trail,
- a cadastral surveyor's tree scribing tool,
- a GLO Tract Book binder from Michigan,
- a CCC packsack found in a storage room at the Burns District, in Oregon,
- a large number of audio and video tapes of interviews with GLO, Grazing Service and BLM Retirees,
- a large brass plaque commemorating the completion of the BLM's Missouri River Basin Land Classification Project 1948 - 1954 with the names of the 74 BLMers who participated in that project, and many of whom became future leaders in the agency,
- an 8-inch long segment of a rail from the O&C Railroad, and
- a drawer full of Johnny Horizon litter bags and promotional materials.

And there is one file cabinet in the PLF Archives that serves as the "Central Files" for the PLF.

IN MEMORIUM

Leonard Anderson, Forester in BLM Eugene District Office, on April 5, 2013, in Eugene, Oregon.

Dale Andrus, BLM Range Conservationist in Prineville, Oregon; Land Examiner in Los Angeles, California; Land Office Manager in Denver, Colorado; Chief of the Lands and Minerals Division and later Deputy Assistant Director for Resources in the BLM Headquarters Office in Washington, DC; and BLM State Director in Colorado; on April 15, 2013, in Evergreen, Colorado.

Curtis John “Curt” Berklund, BLM Director in Washington, D.C., 1973 - 1977, on April 4, 2013, in Greenacres, Washington.

Lucy Bee, Land Law Examiner in the BLM’s Farmington District Office in New Mexico, on March 31, 2013.

George Cleveland, Engineer in the BLM Coos Bay District, on July 17, 2012, in Lebanon, Oregon.

Robert “Bob” Elderkin, who worked for the U.S. Geological Survey Oil Shale Office in Grand Junction, Colorado and the BLM in Glenwood Springs; on April 29, 2013, in Silt, Colorado.

Veronica “Roni” Fenn, Outdoor Recreation Planner in the BLM California State Office, Sacramento, California, and in the Tucson Field Office, Tucson, Arizona; on March 31, 2013, in Sunsites, Arizona.

Helen L. Harris, Land Law Examiner for the BLM, on February 10, 2013, in Coos Bay, Oregon.

Thane Johnson, BLM Range Manager, Resource Area Manager in Burley, Idaho, and Carson City, Nevada, and Range Scientist at the Denver Service Center, on April 23, 2013, in Lakewood, Colorado.

Lowell D. King, who worked in the Fire Program in the BLM Alaska State Office, on June 3, 2013, in Anchorage, Alaska.

Roger Lawrence, Visual Information Specialist in the BLM Wyoming State Office, on March 26, 2013, in Denver, Colorado.

Albert Y. (Al) Ouchi, who worked for the BLM and

several other Interior agencies in the EEO, training, evaluation and compliance programs in Washington, D.C. and in Portland, Oregon, on May 2, 2013, in Portland, Oregon.

Robert (Bob) Rivers, who worked in the BLM’s Headquarters Office in Washington, D.C., and was Deputy State Director for Operations in the BLM’s Oregon/Washington State Office in Portland, Oregon, on May 8, 2013, in Scappoose, Oregon.

Ernest Stafford, Timber Cruiser and Youth Conservation Corps Supervisor in the BLM Montana State Office, on April 8, 2013, in Billings, Montana.

Bruce “Smoky” E. Stevens, BLM Range Technician and Wild Horse Wrangler in Rock Springs and Worland, Wyoming, and Bloomfield, Nebraska; on April 15, 2013, in Worland, Wyoming.

Lorraine M. Stubbins, Information/Technology Specialist and Systems Administrator for the BLM in the Oregon/Washington State Office in Portland, Oregon, on May 3, 2013, in Portland, Oregon.

Dale S. Urie, who worked at the BLM Cedar City District Office, on April 18, 2013, in Cedar City, Utah.

Nellie R. Werito, Human Resources Specialist in the Administrative Services Division of the BLM National Training Center, at Denver Colorado, on May 2, 2013, in Golden, Colorado.

Marcia Youngman-Cowen, who worked for 30 years for BLM in Alaska, including the Alaska Fire Service; on May 24, 2013, in Jonesboro, Louisiana.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Received from:

In Memory of:

Kathy Eaton

Robert J. Rivers,
Albert Ouchi, and
Lorraine Stebbins

Mike Green

Lanny Wilson and
Jim Yoakum

Beau McClure

Larry Peterson

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

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

Public Lands Foundation Goals

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

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