

For America's Heritage

THE PUBLIC LANDS Monitor

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2015 PLF ANNUAL MEETING Phoenix, Arizona - September 22-25, 2015

Don't put it off! Make your travel arrangements and register now for the 2015 PLF Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. It all takes place September 22-25, 2015. **"Youth Initiative and Community Partnerships"** 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 22, should plan on arriving in Phoenix on Monday.

On Wednesday, September 23, you will visit the Agua Fria National Monument Badger Springs Wash Area, Black Canyon Heritage Park and Table Mesa Recreation Area and hear from BLM and Friends Groups about the partnerships that have been formed to manage and maintain these important recreation areas. Programs for both hikers and non-hikers have been arranged.

Box Lunch choices for the Wednesday tour include the following:

Turkey Sandwich - Deli style sandwich with smoked turkey, provolone cheese, lettuce and tomato, with condiments on the side.

Ham Sandwich - Deli style sandwich with honey ham, provolone cheese, lettuce

and tomato, with condiments on the side.

Vegetarian - Grilled vegetable sandwich on a submarine roll, with condiments on the side.

All choices include a piece of whole fruit, bag of potato chips, and a cookie.

Please make your Box Lunch selections on the back of the Registration Form insert included in this *Monitor*.

(Continued on Page 3.)

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

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Ed Shepard

I recently had the great pleasure to be involved in an activity that is always fun; something that I enjoyed while working and something I enjoy as your president. I got to travel to Washington, D.C. to help present the PLF awards for Outstanding Professional for 2014 on May 27th. Rick

Vander Voet received the managerial award and Sue Oberlie received the technician award. We presented Sue with her award just 3 days before she retired and joined the PLF ranks. Welcome, Sue!

I was joined in the presentation by Deputy Director Steve Ellis (who arrived minutes before the presentation after travelling all night from the West Coast), past-President George Lea, and acting Wyoming Associate State Director Larry Claypool. Rick's daughter was also present at the ceremony. We missed having Director Kornze at the event; he was travelling to Wyoming to be with the Secretary as the new Sage-grouse Conservation Plans were rolled out the next day. This also explained why acting Wyoming State Director Mary Jo Rugwell could not attend.

Both Rick and Sue were presented their awards for the outstanding work they have done in the Lander Field Office over the years, including the completion of the first Resource Management Plan that included the sage-grouse conservation measures. I believe that this is the first time that both awards were presented to employees from the same office. May's presentations were also special because we were making them back at BLM Headquarters. For the past two years we made the presentations via video conferencing from the field because of sequestration-related travel restrictions. We

are now back to the tradition of presenting the awards in Washington and our thanks to the Director, Deputy Director and all the BLM employees who made the ceremony a success. Congratulations to Rick and Sue!

PLF is continuing to recognize and assist the next generation of land managers. This spring we presented two students with George Lea Founder's Scholarships of \$5,000 each. Ashley Renee Sanders is a senior at Arizona State University pursuing a degree in Parks and Recreation Management and Brian Andersen of Prescott College is starting a master's program in Environmental Studies and Adventure Management. The scholarship committee reviewed many worthy candidates and we offer our congratulations to Renee and Brian. The two scholarships are made available by earnings on PLF investments and by the generous donations of members. If you would like to donate to the scholarship fund, information is available in this copy of the *Monitor*. Thank you to those that have already contributed.

On June 19-20, I, along with Elaine Brong and Mat Millenbach, represented the PLF at a celebration of the 15th anniversary of the National Conservation Lands (NCL) in northern California. On Friday we visited the Headwaters Monument where I got to join with current employees, local tribal representatives, past BLM and DOI leaders, local friends groups, and, most importantly, youth to plant a Visionary Grove of redwoods. This grove represents the tie between the leaders that envisioned the protection of BLM's gems and future generations. Following the tree planting we heard a discussion of the NCL program and the acquisition of Headwaters from Secretary Babbitt, former Solicitor John Leshy, first NCL Director Elaine Brong, and former Director Tom Fry. The day concluded with a barbecue overlooking the ocean with the BLM Executive Lead-

(Continued on Page 3.)

PUBLIC LANDS FOUNDATION CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

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

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

ership Team. We were also joined at the barbeque by Secretary Sally Jewell.

On Saturday we went to the Kingø Range National Conservation Area where a tiled walkway was unveiled. Remarks were presented by State Director Jim Kenna, Director Neil Kornze, Secretaries Bruce Babbitt and Sally Jewell, Assistant Secretary Janice Schneider, and Conservation Foundation Chairman Ed Norton to commemorate the Bureau's first National Conservation Area and the 15th anniversary. The event was well organized and run by the California and Washington office folks and we appreciate BLM inviting and involving the PLF in this celebration. Secretary Babbitt said it best when he stated that many of the gems included in the NCL exist because of the work of now retired BLM employees.

Many of you have heard about the security breach of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) records of retirees and active employees. Personal data was obtained by hackers, believed to be from China. OPM is offering identity theft protection for 18 months through a contractor. Many of you have already been contacted by OPM or should be soon. This unfortunate intrusion into our privacy is frustrating to say the least. I encourage you all to become informed on your options and consider signing up for the protection offered by OPM.

In late May, Secretary Jewell and Director Kornze released the Final EIS amending nearly all of the resource management plans in areas containing sage-grouse habitat. This was a monumental effort that involved BLM, the Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the many western states with sage-grouse. The intent of the amendments is to provide regulatory certainty to the Fish and Wildlife Service that the BLM and Forest Service will implement conservation measures to prevent the need to list the species under the Endangered Species Act. Hopefully this effort will be successful in protecting the sage-grouse while not tying the agencies up in complicated and expensive processes.

The FY 2016 appropriation bills are beginning to wind their way through Congress. Bills have moved

through both the House and Senate appropriation committees. Spending caps continue to affect the appropriations, keeping levels fairly flat with FY 2015. BLM got a \$60 million plus increase in the House bill, with \$45 million aimed at implementing sage-grouse conservation measures. Both chambers have included controversial riders that will affect movement of these bills. Not surprisingly, many are already talking of a potential continuing resolution.

Fire season is beginning to get into full swing. The drought continues in many parts of BLM country and we can expect that our friends at BLM will be busy. Lower 48 crews are being sent to Alaska and fires are already beginning to pick up here in the Northwest and California. We wish all of the firefighters a safe summer.

Finally, the annual PLF meeting is creeping up on us very quickly. The meeting will be held in Phoenix the week of September 21st. Information on the meeting and registration materials are included in this edition of the *Monitor*. I hope to see many of you there. In the meantime, have a safe and joyful summer.

PLF ANNUAL MEETING*(Continued from Page 1.)*

A barbecue will be held Wednesday evening outside the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Hamburgers hot off of the grill and pulled pork will be served, along with a garden salad and dressings, potato salad, baked beans, corn, cookies, all appropriate condiments, coffee, and iced tea. Two complimentary drinks also are included in the price.

Thursday, September 24, will include our full-day public meeting with panels and a luncheon speaker addressing this year's theme of "Youth Initiative and Community Partnerships."

Thursday Lunch choices include:

Oriental Chicken Salad—Sliced char-broiled chicken breast, mandarin oranges, Chinese parsley, red onion, baby corn, water chestnuts, bean sprouts and crispy ramen noodles laced with soy dressing, and served with warm rolls and butter.

(Continued on Page 4.)

PLF ANNUAL MEETING

(Continued from Page 3.)

Arizona Taco Salad Fresh garden greens, shredded cheddar cheese, diced tomato, onion, sliced black olives and refried beans served in a flaky flour tortilla with salsa fresca, guacamole and sour cream, topped with spicy chicken.

Vegetarian Salad Chef's choice.

Please make your Thursday Lunch selections on the back of the Registration Form insert included in this *Monitor*.

The PLF banquet will be Thursday evening, September 24. Banquet meal choices include:

Roasted Prime Rib of Beef Slow roasted prime rib au jus served with creamed horseradish.

Grilled Atlantic Salmon Fresh Atlantic salmon stuffed with crabmeat, served with lemon butter sauce.

Vegetarian Plate Vegetarian spice tortellini.

All dinner selections are served with fresh garden salad with assorted dressings, Chef's choice of appropriate vegetable and starch, rolls and butter, dessert, coffee, decaffeinated coffee, Celestial Seasonings teas, and iced tea.

Please make your Thursday evening banquet selections on the back of the Registration Form insert included in this *Monitor*.

The Board of Directors will meet again on Friday morning, September 25, planning to be done by noon.

The Annual Meeting will be held at the **Crowne Plaza Phoenix**, 2532 W. Peoria Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85029. They have set aside a block of rooms at a rate of \$95.00 for single or double occupancy, plus local taxes and fees, currently at 12.27%. You must make your own arrangements with the hotel by calling **602-943-2341 or 1-800-227-6963** no later than Saturday, **August 22, 2015**. 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 Crowne Plaza Phoenix provides a complimentary continental breakfast, and complimentary wireless internet throughout the entire hotel. Parking is complimentary for all registered guests.

The Crowne Plaza Phoenix 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.

Reservations must be cancelled at least 48 hours prior to arrival. Reservations cancelled or changed from original arrival date after 48 hours prior to arrival will be subject to a cancellation penalty of one night room and tax for each room that is reserved.

For more information about the Crowne Plaza Phoenix, go to www.cpphoenix.com.

The Crowne Plaza Phoenix does not provide shuttle service from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. If you are flying in, you may wish to check out SuperShuttle Phoenix at www.supershuttle.com. The hotel is about 17 miles from the airport.

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

Musical Instrument Museum 4725 E. Mayo Blvd., Phoenix, AZ; Tel: 480-478-6000; admission price for adults is \$20. It is the world's only global musical instrument museum. The collection of over 15,000 musical instruments and associated objects includes examples from nearly 200 countries and territories, representing every inhabited continent. Some larger countries such as India, China, Russia, the United States and Brazil have multiple displays with subsections for different types of ethnic, folk, and tribal music. Find out more at www.mim.org.

Heard Museum 2301 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ; Tel: 602-252-8840; admission price for adults is \$18; Seniors (65+) is \$13.50. Since its founding by

(Continued on Page 5.)

PLF ANNUAL MEETING

(Continued from Page 4.)

Dwight and Maie Heard in 1929, the Heard Museum has grown in size and stature to become recognized internationally for the quality of its collections, its educational programming and its festivals. Dedicated to the sensitive and accurate portrayal of Native arts and cultures, the Heard is an institution that successfully combines the stories of American Indian people from a personal perspective with the beauty of art. Find out more at www.heard.org.

Desert Botanical Gardens 1201 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix, AZ; Tel: 480-941-1225; admission price for adults is \$22; Seniors is \$20. The Desert Botanical Garden offers the world's finest collection of arid plants from deserts of the world in a unique outdoor setting. The Garden has more than 50,000 desert plants on display throughout five thematic trails that illustrate topics such as conservation, desert living, plants and people of the Sonoran Desert, and desert wildflowers. Find out more at www.dbg.org.

Zelma Basha Salmeri Gallery of Western American & American Indian Art 22402 S. Basha Road, Chandler, AZ; Tel: 480-833-2240; admission to the gallery is free. The focus of the collection lies in two specific areas: Contemporary Western American Art and Contemporary American Indian Art. It is a vast composite of oil paintings, watercolors, acrylics, pastel and charcoal drawings, pen & inks, bronze, wood and natural stone sculptures, wood-turned bowls, basketry, pottery, kachinas and jewelry. There are well over 3,000 pieces of art depicting numerous mediums displayed throughout the gallery. Find out more at www.bashas.com/gallery/.

Shopping at Arrowhead Towne Center 7700 W. Arrowhead Towne Center, Glendale, AZ; Tel: 623-227-4227. This is a two-story air-conditioned indoor mall with a variety of stores, a food court, and much more.

Maps for all of the above activities will be available at the Registration Desk when you arrive. Transportation for spousal tours will be by carpooling of private vehicles of participants.

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 22, 2015, for the reduced rate. If you have any questions, please contact Beau McClure by e-mail at vpops@publicland.org or by phone at 623-587-7883.

PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

Recent PLF advocacy activities include:

1. PLF joined with over 60 other conservation organizations in sending an April 15, 2015 letter to Congressional Chairmen supporting the Reauthorization of the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA). FLTFA enables the federal government to sell federal public lands and use the money from the sale of the lands for land conservation purposes.

2. PLF joined with 14 other organizations in the National Horse & Burro Rangeland Management Coalition in sending an April 30, 2015 letter to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies describing the impacts of the exponentially growing populations of wild horses and burros on public lands, and urging this committee and other members of Congress to address this increasing problem for our nation's valuable rangelands, by directing the BLM to remove horses and burros at a rate substantial enough to produce impactful results and protect our resources.

3. On June 8, 2015, PLF joined 15 other sportsmen-conservation & scientific organizations in thanking Senators Heller, Heinrich, Risch and Tester, and Representatives Gosar, Franks, Heck, Polis, Ruiz, and Thompson for introducing S.1407 and H.R. 2663, the Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act. The organizations expressed their support of the development of renewable energy resources on public lands as long as it is done in the right places and in a manner that conserves fish and wildlife habitat. The provisions of the bill that apply a substantial portion of royalty revenue to offsetting impacts to fish and wildlife habitat are essential to balancing

(Continued on Page 6.)

PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

(Continued from Page 5.)

development and hunting and fishing opportunities. Also eligible for use of the funds is securing recreational access to Federal land for the purpose of providing enhanced public access to existing land that is inaccessible or restricted. The Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act would help wind and solar development move forward on appropriate public lands in a way that sustains the West's unparalleled sporting heritage.

4. PLF and 16 other sportsmen-conservation and scientific organizations sent a letter dated June 10, 2015 to the Chairs and Ranking Members of the Senate and House Committees on Appropriations. Senators Cochran and Mikulski and Reps. Rogers and Lowey are supporting DOI's request for increased funding for greater sage-grouse and sagebrush ecosystem conservation in Fiscal Year 2016.

5. PLF's Arizona Chapter sent an April 17, 2015 letter to the BLM Arizona State Director opposing the proposed merger of the BLM's Arizona and New Mexico State Offices.

6. On May 18, 2015, PLF sent a letter to the Arizona and New Mexico Congressional delegations on the issue of combining the BLM Arizona and New Mexico State Offices and the elimination of the Arizona State Director and other Arizona State Office positions.

PLF's Letter to the Arizona and New Mexico Congressional Delegations

May 18, 2015

To: AZ & NM Congressional delegations

Dear Senator McCain:

It is our understanding that Bureau of Land Management (BLM) officials briefed your staff recently on a proposal to combine the BLM Arizona and New Mexico State Offices, resulting in the elimination of the Arizona State Director and other Arizona State Office positions. This proposal is being presented as a cost saving, more efficient structure.

The Public Lands Foundation (PLF) has a number of major concerns that we want to bring to your attention, and we strongly believe that eliminating the Arizona BLM State Director and State Office and shifting responsibilities to New Mexico would cause constituents in both states to suffer. Furthermore, this is not an appropriate time to even consider shutting down a major BLM office.

The PLF is a national non-profit membership organization founded in 1987. The PLF advocates and works for the retention of America's National System of Public Lands in public hands, professionally and sustainably managed for responsible common use and enjoyment. Members are predominately retired employees of the BLM from across the United States. Collectively, PLF members have thousands of years of BLM experience managing these public lands and resources. Some of this experience dates back into the early 1950s when BLM was organized in a Regional structure. Each of the District BLM offices in the western states reported to one of six Regional Administrators located in Portland, San Francisco, Billings, Salt Lake City, Albuquerque and Anchorage.

In 1954, the BLM took an important step by establishing a State Director in each state. There are a few exceptions to this structure where a few State Offices manage small acreages of public lands in adjacent states. This state structure set in place the business model of BLM decisions being made within the state where the lands are located. The decisions are made by employees who are residents of the state, and they live and work among the public who use the lands and with the state and local elected leaders.

The State Office structure has worked well for over 60 years in the 10 western states that have large acres of public lands. This success is fundamentally a result of decision-makers residing in the state and having the capability and opportunity to gain specific knowledge of the area and the people who live there.

BLM State Directors currently are able to personally

(Continued on Page 7.)

PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

(Continued from Page 6.)

interact with a vast array of people and organizations affected by and interested in the management of the public lands in their state. They have the ability to provide better customer service and better delivery of services due to the fact that they are more closely aligned and have more knowledge of local and state perspectives.

Our sister land managing agency, the U.S. Forest Service, operates within a regional organization where major decisions about National Forest lands in Arizona are made in the Regional Office in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

We believe the BLM State structure results in much closer working relationships with local communities and governments as well as statewide organizations and interest groups. The State Director and staff have many opportunities to build relationships with the Governor and key staff with the goal of building trust and open communications.

The mission of the BLM has become even more complex over the years and therefore understanding and involving the local and state governments and constituents is more critical than ever in dealing with public land issues.

In taking a look at the BLM Arizona and New Mexico organizations current responsibilities and staffing it is obvious that such a merger would inevitably result in a significant reduction of services to many of your constituencies.

The BLM in Arizona manages 12.2 million acres of land as well as 17.5 million acres of subsurface estate. It has responsibility for several major programs requiring significant time commitments to work with individuals, interest groups, local communities, local and state elected officials and Native American Indian tribes.

Arizona has 21 federally recognized tribes. The BLM State Director in many cases is the official the tribes look to in fulfilling the federal government's government-to-government consultation responsibilities and mineral trust responsibilities. The relationships with

many of the tribes are built through travel to their locations and meetings with their leaders and governing bodies. This personal involvement is critical to show the appropriate respect and commitment to the unique relationship of the tribes to the lands BLM manages as well as tribal mineral resources.

BLM in Arizona also has significant responsibilities regarding Arizona/Mexico border operations. Much progress has been made in this area over the last several years. The State Director and staff have worked diligently with Homeland Security, the Border Patrol and Department of the Interior agencies to foster open communications, better understanding of each other's missions and increased cooperation on the ground. This is an ongoing challenge to maintain these excellent relationships as the policies and events emerge in the immigration area.

There is a large Range Management program in Arizona requiring close coordination and cooperation with the hundreds of permittees that rely on public lands as part of their operation. It is critical that the BLM work very closely with all permittees and statewide organizations, especially during this prolonged drought period.

The recreation program is another area that is growing rapidly in Arizona requiring increased cooperation at both the local and state levels. The rural urban interface around the Phoenix and Tucson areas presents many challenges and opportunities to work together and develop partnerships and all levels in the state that will provide opportunities for quality recreation experiences for this growing constituency of anglers, hunters, hikers, OHV enthusiasts, and wildlife viewers.

BLM Arizona's 5 National Monuments, 3 National Conservation Areas, 47 Wilderness Areas, 2 Wilderness Study Areas, 2 National Historic Trails, and 1 National Scenic Trail are major parts of the National Landscape Conservation System and some of Arizona's and the nation's most spectacular landscapes. With these special lands comes a responsibility to manage these lands for the values for which they were designated. This includes

(Continued on Page 8.)

PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

(Continued from Page 7.)

preparation of plans involving extensive work with communities and local and state entities.

These programs and many others constitute major workloads where the quality of service would be reduced under the proposed merger.

There are other programs where services would have to be retained in both states. The BLM is the real estate manager of federal public lands. Each State Office has trained and specialized staff to carry out the responsibility for maintaining the official public land records for their state. They maintain the official public land records for all federal lands in the state and the historic records of land transfers to private ownership, which are the foundation for the chain of title to private ownership in that state. Moving these functions to another state would create a real hardship for the public.

In recent years, the responsibility for recordation of mining claims has been added to the responsibilities of the states. Mining claimants and title companies are the biggest users of these records. The mineral expertise required in each state is quite different, with Arizona having an active hard rock mining program, while New Mexico has a major leasable minerals program.

Other personnel located in the State Office whose duties are critical to delivery of key services include Cadastral Survey whose function is to provide surveys on public lands and Indian lands.

The fire program is yet another where it is critical that the functions performed by personnel in Arizona, including those in the State Office, remain in Arizona.

The Communication function in dealing with the press, especially in the major Phoenix market is one that needs to continue.

Arizona has a statewide Resource Advisory Committee that meets on a regular basis and for which the Arizona State Director is the designated federal official. This responsibility must be continued.

Looking at the workload and responsibilities that

would need to stay in Phoenix to provide adequate customer service and those responsibilities that the New Mexico office would have to pick up is not likely to achieve significant cost savings, certainly not enough to justify the reduced services.

Both the BLM in Arizona and the BLM in New Mexico have taken substantial reductions in funding and number of employees over the last few years. In fact, at their current levels it is difficult to see how they can deliver on their current top work priorities.

The PLF supports looking for efficiencies and savings throughout the organization, but the inevitable decrease in services and reduced connections to the varied interests concerned about the management of the public lands is much too steep.

We strongly believe that, eliminating the Arizona BLM State Director and State Office, and shifting responsibilities to New Mexico would cause constituents in both states to suffer.

We support the effort to continue to find ways to operate more efficiently in the BLM and Arizona and New Mexico's continuing effort to utilize shared resources where that makes sense and does not reduce the service to the wide range of constituents both you and the BLM serve.

Sincerely,

/s/ Edward W. Shepard
Edward W. Shepard, President

Cc: Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management
Janice M. Schneider, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management
Kris Sarri, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Policy, Management and Budget
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior

Identical letters sent to:

(Continued on Page 9.)

PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES*(Continued from Page 8.)*Arizona Congressional Delegation

Senator Jeff Flake

Representatives Ann Kirkpatrick, Martha McSally, Raul M. Grijalva, Paul A. Gosar, Matt Salmon, David Schweikert, Ruben Gallego, Trent Franks, Kyrsten Sinema

New Mexico Congressional Delegation

Senators Martin Heinrich and Tom Udall

Representatives Michelle Lujan Grisham, Steve Pearce, Ben R. Lujan

Senator Lisa Murkowski, Chair, Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee

Representative Rob Bishop, Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee

UPDATE ON THE PAST AND THE FUTURE:**A BLM/PLF PARTNERSHIP****What the Future Has to Offer****By Elaine Zielinski**

Feeling old and out of touch with all those youngsters new to the BLM? Are your friends and family tired of hearing all those same old stories about the way things used to be?

Well, the Public Lands Foundation has developed an opportunity for you. Sign up to partner with a new BLM employee who is attending the BLM's Pathways course, the orientation to BLM conducted at the National Training Center in Phoenix twice a year.

The Project is called "The Past and the Future" and was discussed in the Spring edition of the *Monitor*. But to refresh your memory, the PLF developed a list of BLM retirees and gave students at the Pathways class an opportunity to partner with these retirees. The BLM employee interviewed the retiree (the Past) and the retiree interviewed the student (the Future).

The interviews for the most part, have been face-to-face. The interview questions are given to the participants ahead of time so they can give them some thought. Questions for the retiree include such things as: "How did you hear about BLM? Why did you choose to work for BLM? What was the BLM like when you worked for the agency? Describe a couple of interesting

stories (or anecdotes) relative to your time in BLM?"

Didn't I tell you this was an opportunity for a new audience for your stories?

The questions for the PLF student include some of the same questions such as: "How did you hear about BLM? What attracted you to BLM?" Then to get a flavor for where these employees new to BLM are coming from, questions such as: "What are your career goals? What are some of the challenges you face on a daily basis? What are your thoughts on how to deal with these challenges?"

The recorded interviews of the retirees will become a part of the BLM's history and kept in the PLF Archives. The interviews of the students will be summarized and provided to PLF and BLM to help learn more about the "future" workforce and help support them in the work they do.

We have about 40 PLF/Pathways matches so far. They include partners like Ed Hastey who retired as State Director of California after 42 years with BLM and Justin Robbins, an Outdoor Recreation Planner at the King Range in California.

Did you know that Ed's grandfather worked as a Forest Ranger in 1895, which is one reason Ed chose a career dealing with land and natural resources? Did you know that Ed never applied for a position in BLM throughout his career? He just received teletypes or memos saying, you are now the _____. Your duty station is at _____. And, you report on _____. A very streamlined hiring and promotion process!!

Justin has a passion for the public lands and wants to do the best he can to improve the condition of the public lands. He learned about the history of the King Range from Ed who gave him the real story about the politics and people that made the King Range what it is today.

Retirees— we need you to participate in this project. You do not have to have been a manager to participate. Everyone that worked in BLM has a story to tell. Please sign up to let us hear your story and to learn what is happening in BLM today and how we can support these new employees as the "future" of BLM.

To sign up, contact Elaine Zielinski by email at elaine.zielinski@gmail.com or phone at 480-292-0341 or Beau McClure at vpops@publicland.org.

PLF'S OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

Each year the PLF gives two Outstanding Public Lands Professional Awards to BLM employees who have excelled in Managerial/Administrative and Technical/Operational positions. The 2014 Award winners were **Richard Vander Voet**, Manager of the BLM's Lander Field Office in Lander, Wyoming, and **Sue Oberlie**, Lead Wildlife Biologist, in the Lander Field Office. The award presentations were made on May 27, 2015 in an awards ceremony in the BLM's Washington D.C. Office. The Award citations are posted on the PLF's website and were included in the Spring edition of the *Monitor*.

The PLF has been giving these Outstanding Professional Awards each year since 1989. The names and photos of the 52 BLM employees honored to date are shown on the Awards page of the PLF's www.publicland.org website.



L to R: **Steve Ellis**, Deputy Director for Operations, BLM Headquarters Office, Washington, D.C.; **Sue Oberlie** (Recipient), Lead Wildlife Biologist, Lander Field Office, Lander, Wyoming; **Ed Shepard**, PLF President; and **Larry Claypool**, Acting BLM Wyoming Associate State Director.



L to R: **Steve Ellis**, Deputy Director for Operations, BLM Headquarters Office, Washington, D.C.; **Richard Vander Voet** (Recipient), Manager, Lander Field Office, Lander, Wyoming; **Ed Shepard**, PLF President; and **Larry Claypool**, Acting BLM Wyoming Associate State Director.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2015 OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

A reminder to BLM Managers and Supervisors it is time to submit nominations for the 2015 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, 2015.** A call for nominations, including criteria, will be sent to each BLM Office. Award descriptions and criteria are available in the Awards link at www.publicland.org. Nominations should be sent to Rich Whitley, Chairman of the PLF Professional Awards Committee by email at Richard@reallifetraininggroup.com, or by mail at 550 NW Torrey View Road, Portland, OR 97229.

RETIRING? Join PLF & keep in touch with BLM and friends.

FIRST YEAR IS FREE! Subsequent years only \$35

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

2015 LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARDS NOMINATION DEADLINE NEARS

August 1, 2015 is the deadline for submitting nominations for the PLF's 2015 **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 BLM's National System of Public Lands. Nominations should be emailed to Beau McClure at vpops@publicland.org. Guidelines for the award can be found on the PLF Awards page of our website at www.publicland.org.

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

Saturday, September 26, 2015, 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. National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest single-day volunteer effort for public lands. Last year, more than 175,000 volunteers celebrated at more than 2,100 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 120 NPLD sites (more than any other agency) approved with activities including trash cleanup, trail construction, river restoration, weed removal, fence construction, graffiti removal and planting, to name a few. Just call the nearest BLM office for details, directions, and transportation, if needed.

Thanks to funding provided by the National Environmental Education Foundation and the BLM, PLF will again be providing small reimbursements for certain costs associated with BLM NPLD projects. The purchase of services, supplies and materials, which are difficult for BLM to obtain through normal procurement processes qualify for such reimbursements. For the third 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.

BOOK REVIEW

A Great Aridness; Climate Change and the Future of the American Southwest.

By William deBuys, Oxford University Press

(369 pages, 2011)

Reviewed for the Public Lands Foundation

By **Geoff Middaugh**

Range Management is a conflicted discipline. It is a "science", burdened with an undercurrent of romanticism, and the scenery is pretty good too.

-ô W. deBuys

I have always wondered if a book would (or could) ever be written about a BLM hero. In *Forty Years a Forester*, the camaraderie and *esprit d 'corps* of being a young, male (they were all males) forester in the wilds of Montana, fighting fire in 1910 and saving western civilization comes out in a dramatic diary, retold. In Jack Ward Thomas's published dairies, he retells from his own perspective what it was like to steer the USFS ship through the political waves of the Clinton Administration. (One advantage of writing your own diary is that you can never be wrong). In Nevada Barr's fictional *Blind Descent*, the BLM manager saves the day, and the NPS resource chief is a patsy to the oil and gas industry (quite the turn-about for sure). In a true political science study, Ed Haste, retired State Director in California, comes off as a crusty but sage bureaucratic magician in *Bureaucratic Landscapes, Interagency Cooperation and the Preservation of Biodiversity*, as he coerces a recalcitrant Forest Service and National Park Service (and cranky local county supervisors) while heroically trying to squeeze out conservation values for the sake of biodiversity, rather than just defend bureaucratic boundaries. Everyone needs a hero.

These books all look back, and record history or stories of the past. Seldom does a book come along that projects what organizational dynamics will occur in the future, and builds upon this sea change of controversy to look at resource management in the age of global climate changes.

William deBuys speculates on the future in *A Great Aridness; Climate Change and the Future of the American Southwest*. This book is short on BLM specifics (and no BLM iconic heroes), but long on the dilemma
(Continued on Page 12.)

BOOK REVIEW***A Great Aridness; Climate Change and the Future of the American Southwest.****(Continued from Page 11.)*

and controversies associated with resource management in a time of rapid social and scientific changes. I found it an exceptional read, with a multitude of stories that make it seem that deBuys took the time and effort to understand the dilemmas of managing with change, controversy and competing aspects of the law. His stories come from the people on the ground: staff and line managers, from local tribes, and local ranchers.

There have been many books on this topic, but few with the power and succinctness of the narrative to explain how this change will affect places we love. DeBuys takes on politicians, bureaucrats, tribes, and environmentalists as he explains the struggle with mega-fires, bark beetles, lost biodiversity, thirsty Arizona and rural/urban conflicts.

DeBuys is an exceptional writer, with a crafted style, and exceptional message. That message is: it's complicated. He explains obtuse concepts such as "historic range of variability" in a way that's understandable. His sensitivity towards American Indian tribes, and their relationship in historic context to a warming planet is outstanding. In a unique twist to his narrative, all the pictures in the book are ones deBuys took himself as he visited these amazing places in the southwest.

One chapter in particular tells an amazing story of environmental politics, ESA intrigue, sufficiency language problems, power politics, and topped with wildfire, squirrels, and forest health problems: Mt. Graham and the Politics of Change. Many can see a similar story playing out all over the west, as we try to use a one size fits all law (ESA) to address a much more complicated problem than survival of a red squirrel in the context of global climate temperature increases.

But deBuys best quote goes back to trying to find a hero. My favorite is a quote as he relates to trying to get a restoration project completed before it all burns up (they lost, by the way). His reference is to a manager who gets up every day on the job and makes a vow to "make it better and get it done." That's what a hero does. Not unlike many of the people who worked for BLM, and still do.

GIVING BLM LANDS A NAME**A Petit Memoir by George D. Lea**

It always bothered me that the land I worked on had no name. The lands that BLM administered were not known nationally. The Forest Service had their National Forest Lands, the National Park Service had their National Park Lands and the Fish and Wildlife Service had their National Refuge Lands. But the BLM lands were just "plain brown paper" public land. When asked what you did and you mentioned you worked on public lands you were asked "You mean State-owned lands, or are these lands county or city owned? What do you mean public land?" This lack of a descriptive name is one reason BLM and its programs were virtually unknown east of the Mississippi River, and in the Congress. When it came to funding - they had no name and received little attention. They were just "lands no one wanted" as the saying went.

The lands I worked on were just as important as those of the Forest Service or the Park Service. BLM lands needed to be shown on atlases and road maps. But what would you call them?

Back in the early 1970s, BLM began using the name "National Resource Lands" for the BLM lands. In 1976, during the development of organic legislation for the BLM, the original title proposed for the legislation was the "National Resource Lands Policy and Management Act." But for some reason the name was dropped from the language at the last minute, and the BLM land was called "Federal Land" in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. At least "FLPMA" is easier to pronounce than "NRLPMA."

So PLF continued to seek a descriptive name for the land. Various names were suggested such as "National Resource Lands," "National Wild Lands," or "National Conservation Lands," with arguments for and against each suggested name. We were willing to support any name that Congress might support. The land needed to be named.

In January of 2008, Jim Caswell had been named BLM Director and PLF Board Member Pete Culp and I met with Jim to get acquainted and to introduce PLF to him. We met in his office in the Main Interior Building.

(Continued on Page 13.)

GIVING BLM LANDS A NAME
A Petit Memoir by George D. Lea
(Continued from Page 12.)

PLF was pleased to have Jim as Director in that he was completely aware of the responsibilities of his job and that of BLM having recently retired as a career employee of the Forest Service. Jim explained that he saw himself as a “short timer” with BLM and had no plans for changes at BLM. I suggested that we saw his work at BLM differently and that I had brought a short list of important changes he might consider. Giving BLM lands a name was top on the list and when I mentioned it he said “just a minute.” He got up, went to his desk and returned with a note pad and began taking notes. He liked the idea. Coming from the Forest Service he recognized how important a name was, including the term “National System.”

Jim Caswell went to work on the idea that PLF had given him. The original name under consideration was the “National Public Lands System” but it was rejected because the acronym NPLS would have been pronounced “nipples.” Finally on December 16, 2008,

the Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne issued Order No. 3280 officially designating the BLM public lands as the “National System of Public Lands.”

In making the designation, the Secretary stated, “These lands constitute an invaluable recreational, cultural, economic and environmental legacy for the Nation. And yet, those who own the lands - the American people - remain largely unaware of their critical importance to our quality of life, their value to present and future generations, or even the purpose for which these lands are preserved in public ownership.”

BLM Director Jim Caswell said, “Its time these great lands and resources, whose historical roots date back to the earliest days of our nation, are given their due by recognizing them officially. This official designation will ultimately make it easier for the public to identify these lands and more readily understand the multiple-use mission that Congress has given to the BLM.”

**GEORGE D. LEA FOUNDER’S
SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

**Renee Sanders and Brian Andersen receive the
PLF’s George Lea Founder’s Scholarship**

Renee Sanders is a senior at Arizona State University and Brian Andersen is a senior at Prescott College. Both will receive a scholarship of \$5,000 as recognition of their outstanding scholastic achievement, extracurricular activities, and desire to continue their education to advance the field of natural resource management.

In addition to the cash award, Renee and Brian have both been invited to attend the next PLF annual meeting, which is to be held in Phoenix on September 22-25, 2015, as PLF’s guests. Both have indicated their intention to attend. PLF is also arranging for each of them to spend some time with one of BLM’s local managers so that they can gain insight into the operations of a public land agency.

Renee is majoring in Parks and Recreation Management and also has a strong interest in wildlife management. Her outside activities include volunteer work for the City

(Continued on Page 14.)



L to R: **James L. Caswell** (seated), BLM Director; **Henri Bisson**, BLM Deputy Director for Operations; **Celia Boddington**, BLM Assistant Director for Communications; **George Lea**, President, Public Lands Foundation; **P. Lynn Scarlett**, Deputy Secretary of the Interior, and (seated) **Dirk Kempthorne**, Secretary of the Interior, who is handing the pen used to sign the Secretarial Order to George Lea.

GEORGE LEA FOUNDER’S SCHOLARSHIP

(Continued from Page 13.)

of Phoenix, and membership in the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association. She is also a member of the ASU Parks and Recreation Student Association. Renee’s goal after completing her education is to work with wildlife and public land management in order to help maintain important resources for future generations.

Brian is majoring in Adventure Tourism. He has a strong interest in the outdoors and participated in the PLF’s 2014 Student Congress. Brian was also one of the organizers of a gathering known as “Uplift,” which was a gathering of about 80 students who came together to identify specific actions they could take to provide input to the management of the Colorado Plateau. Brian works for the Arizona Wilderness Coalition and is also a backcountry guide.

This year the scholarships were advertised at Arizona State University, University of Arizona, Northern Arizona University and Prescott College. Much like last year, the Scholarship Committee reviewed all of the applications and made the selections. A report summarizing the process and making recommendations for next year will be presented at the Board meeting in September.

Ability is what you are capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it.
—Lou Holtz

FINANCING THE GEORGE LEA FOUNDER’S SCHOLARSHIPS

The PLF has financed two \$5,000 George Lea Founder’s scholarships this year. As proposed by the Scholarship Committee and adopted by the Board of Directors last September, one scholarship was paid by donations from the PLF membership and the other scholarship was paid from the PLF’s TD Ameritrade investment account.

We are now seeking donations for the 2016 George Lea Founder’s Scholarship Fund. If you are interested in donating, please make your check or money order payable to the Public Lands Foundation and send it to us at P.O. Box 7226, Arlington, VA 22207. Your donation will help assist two students in 2016 that need financial assistance and are majoring in a natural resource or public land policy curriculum. In your transmittal, please make sure to mention that your donation is for the George Lea Founder’s Scholarship Fund.

DONATIONS TO THE GEORGE LEA FOUNDER’S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Tom Allen	Glen Collins
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Louis Bellesi
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IN MEMORIUM

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

Ralph Carpenter, BLM Manager of Records and Data Management at the BLM Portland and Denver Service Centers; on April 2, 2015; in Wickenburg, Arizona.

Robert (Bob) Chase, who worked as a petroleum engineer in the BLMø Rock Springs District in Wyoming and on the statewide reservoir management team in Casper, Wyoming; on May 1, 2015.

Keith A. Curry, who worked as a Range Management Specialist for the BLM in Kingman, Arizona; on April 29, 2015; in Ooltewah, Tennessee.

Fidel Gallegos, who worked for the BLM in Albuquerque, New Mexico; on April 11, 2015; in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Ralph W. Hjelmstad, BLM Administrative Officer in Billings, Montana; Durango and Denver, Colorado; and in the Arizona State Office in Phoenix, Arizona; on June 16, 2015; in Phoenix, Arizona.

Robert Jones, who was a Civil Engineer in the BLMø Arizona State Office; on April 7, 2015; in Tucson, Arizona.

Nannette R. Keck, who worked in various bookkeeping, accounting and administration jobs and retired from the BLMø District Office in Farmington, New Mexico; on April 30, 2015; in Farmington, New Mexico.

Ray Lee Kelley, wildfire fighter and range management technician for 28 years in the BLMø Shoshone District; on May 30, 2015; in Twin Falls, Idaho.

Jerry Kendrick, who was an Area Manager for many years in the BLMø office in Durango, Colorado; on May 15, 2015; in Durango, Colorado.

Robert (Bob) Means, State Forester at the BLMø Wyoming State Office; on May 26, 2015; in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Keith L. McGillivary, a computer specialist at the BLMø National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho; on March 30, 2015; in Boise, Idaho.

Willa Hall Neff, who worked as a land law clerk for the BLM in Boise, Idaho; on April 12, 2015; in Boise, Idaho.

Fred Rungee, who worked in the BLMø wildfire program in Glennallen, Alaska; on March 27, 2015; in New Haven, Connecticut.

Terry K. Sonner, a BLM Fire Operations Specialist in the BLMø Boise District, and who also worked in the BLMø wildfire program in Elko, Nevada, and Burley, Idaho; collapsed and died after completing his morning physical fitness training session on June 11, 2015; in Hammett, Idaho.

Robert L. Todd, who was the Manager of the BLMø former Tuscaloosa Project Office, in Tuscaloosa Alabama; on March 10, 2014; in Centre, Alabama.

Rommie Joe Walker, who was Chief, Branch of Operation Support in the BLMø Eugene, Oregon District Office; on May 11, 2015; in Eugene, Oregon.

Maurice (Zeke) Ziegler, who worked for BLM in Colorado and Lakeview and Prineville, Oregon before retiring as Chief, Division of Operations in the BLM Medford District in Medford, Oregon; on April 15, 2015.

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

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Received From	In Memory of
Rex Cleary	Carol Allen
Kathy Eaton	Caron Allen and Sheri Bell
Eric Janes	Carol Allen
George Jones	Carol Allen
John Kwiatkowski	Carol Allen and Jim Henderson
Felix Lapinski	Carol Allen
Bill LeBarron	Jim Henderson, Roland Robison, Carol Allen, Bill Larramendy, Otto Krueger
Dean Stepanek	Carol Allen
Christine Trollinger	Carol Allen
Champ Vaughan	Jerry O'Callaghan
Clair Whitlock	Bill Luscher

Public Lands Foundation

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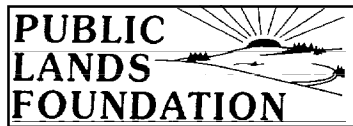
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Public Lands Foundation Goals

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE - \$350

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WHAT'S INSIDE?	
PLF Annual Meeting	1,3-5
President's Column	2-3
PLF Advocacy Activities	5-9
BLM/PLF Partnership	9
PLF's Outstanding Professional Awards	10
2015 Landscape Stewardship Award Nominations --	11
National Public Lands Day	11
Book Review	11-12
Giving BLM Lands a Name	12-13
George Lea Founder's Scholarship	13-14
Special Dues Payments/Donations	15
In Memorium/Memorial Donations	15

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