



For America's Heritage

# THE PUBLIC LANDS Monitor

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## PLF ANNUAL MEETING—LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO

The next PLF Annual Meeting will be held in Las Cruces, New Mexico, September 13-16, 2016. The theme for this year's meeting will be **"Keeping National Public Lands in Public Hands"**.

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

On Wednesday, September 14, the BLM Las Cruces District Office is organizing a tour that highlights some of the many assets the National Public Lands offer the American public. A barbecue will be held in the evening.

Thursday, September 15, will include our full-day public meeting with panels and a luncheon speaker addressing this year's theme. The PLF banquet will be held Thursday evening.

The Board of Directors will meet again on Friday morning, September 16, planning to be done by noon.

We are considering an optional 1½-day PLF Bird Watching event in the Las Cruces area for those interested. The Las

Cruces area offers a unique mix of habitats with an impressive diversity of bird watching opportunities. Initial plans are that the event would begin Friday afternoon following the Board of Directors meeting with an afternoon birding outing and followed on Saturday, September 17, with an all-day guided tour. A local professional birder could be hired as a guide, with the cost being split among those attending. If you are interested or have suggestions, please contact George Lea at [glea@publicland.org](mailto:glea@publicland.org) or 703-629-3166.

Optional activities in the Las Cruces area for spouses who prefer not to attend

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### RETIRING?

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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

I was going to start off this column by quoting the ancient Confucius blessing, “May you live in interesting times.” I am glad I looked it up because it is neither Chinese nor ancient. It is also not a blessing, but a curse. According to the Internet

(which of course is always right), the saying goes back to 1930’s England and is used ironically as a curse, meaning “May you experience much disorder and trouble in your life.” The curse is certainly the life of a public land management employee these days. The unfortunate events of the past few months, still playing out in eastern Oregon, are certainly making the lives of our friends in the land management agencies “interesting.” So interesting that many employees had to leave their homes and community and relocate for their own protection. That’s twice in less than two years; and this is just not acceptable!

The good people that work for the BLM, Forest Service, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and state and local agencies have difficult jobs to do, and they don’t need armed secessionists threatening them and their families and preventing them from doing the work the taxpayers hired them to do. And, they certainly don’t need the intolerable rhetoric reaped on them by political figures and candidates for public office that they are getting. Much of this is coming from people that are responsible for setting the direction that these employees must follow. Adding to the problems is the fact that the occupation may have been prevented had the Department of Justice acted faster following the Bunkerville, Nevada incident. Several of the militants arrested from the Malheur Occupation were also recently arrested in connection with their actions in Nevada in 2014.

Like many of you, I sat watching the TV and reading the Internet as the events unfolded and wondered what PLF could do and what I could do, personally.

One thing I did do was to call the Burns District Manager and let him know that I appreciated him and the BLM employees and was supporting them through this ordeal. I think he appreciated it, and it might have made him feel a little better, if even for a few moments, knowing that a retired BLMer was there for them. At least it made me feel a little better. I’ve been told that others of you made calls also. So, one thing I am asking you all to consider: pick up the phone and call your nearest BLM office and tell them “Thank you for what you do, we know what you are going through these days, and we appreciate you.” You might make someone’s day.

One thing that PLF did do to advocate for the agencies was to join with the National Association of Forest Service Retirees to write to Attorney General Lynch to support and encourage her to take appropriate action against the illegal occupation and reminding her that the lack of action from earlier events emboldened the participants in the Harney County occupation. We copied the U.S. Attorneys in Oregon and Nevada. We have yet to hear back from the Attorney General, but we did get an email from the Nevada U.S. Attorney thanking us for our support. The letter prompted calls from the media, and I was able to talk to several reporters about public lands and the issues land managers face.

Those that were involved are now sitting in jail or at home with government-furnished anklets. The slow wheels of justice are turning, and we can only hope that they are convicted and punished for their activities. Despite the bad behavior, there is some good that has come out of this. A lot, though certainly not all, of the media coverage and comments has been positive toward public lands and those lands remaining in the public hands. There is a renewed conversation over these lands, and it all isn’t about “giving” the lands back to the states. There is a lot of discussion over the value the public lands have and the need to manage them for the public. The recent events have allowed

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

PLF to get people to read our *America's Public Lands: origins, history, and future* publication, and you are seeing the facts from that document show up in media stories. Our presence on social media has grown as people seek to become more informed about the public lands. And, the Government Accountability Office has asked us to present a discussion on the public lands at a workshop they are holding in Washington, D.C. Assistant Director Mike Nedd and I will be leading the discussion, based on *America's Public Lands* on April 7<sup>th</sup>. And, of course this will be a major part of our discussions during the annual meeting in September in New Mexico.

The House Appropriations Committee did not hold a hearing for public testimony this year; however, PLF did submit a letter to the Committee that is included in this edition of the *Monitor*. Thanks to Mike Ferguson for taking the lead in preparing the testimony. There was a lot to like in the proposed budget, such as the youth initiatives and sage-grouse funding and a call for a better way to fund fire. There were also programs where there were reductions we would like to see restored, such as the Wild Horse and Burro and the O&C programs. We also expressed our dismay with the elimination of the Challenge Cost Share Program. This particular program has leveraged millions of dollars with partners to do on-the-ground projects on the National Public Lands, and its loss will disrupt some longstanding partnerships the BLM has developed over the years.

The Third Student Congress is coming up in September, just before our annual meeting. The organizing committee is pulling together a great program that is in keeping with the commitment the PLF made several years ago to support the next generation of public land managers. As another part of the commitment to youth, we established the George Lea Founderø Scholarships. To date, there has been approximately \$7,000 donated toward these two \$5,000 scholarships, including Henri Bissonø very generous \$1,000 challenge donation. Thank you

to those who have contributed to this important fund and for those that would like to donate; there is still time to do so before the awards are made this Spring. You can make contributions by sending a check to PLF Treasurer Dwight Hempel, P.O. Box 188, Blue Diamond, Nevada 89004 with a notation that the funds are for the George Lea Founderø Scholarship Fund.

I hope you all have a safe and happy Spring. I look forward to seeing many of you in New Mexico in September.

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**PLF ANNUAL MEETING—LAS CRUCES,  
NEW MEXICO**
*(Continued from Page 1.)*

the public meeting on Thursday will be provided in the summer edition of the *Monitor*.

The Annual Meeting will be held at the **Ramada Las Cruces Hotel and Conference Center**, 201 E. University Avenue, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005 (Interstate 10, Exit 142). They have set aside a block of rooms at a rate of \$79.00 for a Single King room, or \$89.00 for a Double Queen room, plus local taxes and fees, (currently the Room Tax is 13.3125% plus \$2.50 City Fee & \$2.50 Energy Fee). The rate includes a two-person occupancy, after which a \$5.00 charge will be added for each additional guest. You must make your own arrangements with the hotel by calling **575-526-4411** no later than Saturday, **August 27, 2016**. Please mention the **Public Lands Foundation** in order to receive the group discount rate.

The hotelø check-in time is 3:00 p.m. and the check-out time is 12:00 noon. The Ramada Hotel and Conference Center provides a complimentary continental breakfast, wireless internet, and parking.

The Ramada Las Cruces Hotel and Conference Center requires all guests to provide a valid form of photo I.D. at check in. The I.D. must be government approved, current and for the guest registered in the room.

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## PLF ANNUAL MEETING—LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO

(Continued from Page 3.)

If you need to cancel your reservations, it must be done at least 24 hours prior to arrival to avoid any penalty.

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

Meeting registration information and other details will be provided in the next *Public Lands Monitor*. If you have any questions, please contact Beau McClure by e-mail at [vpops@publicland.org](mailto:vpops@publicland.org), or by phone at 623-587-7883.

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## PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

### **P**LF's Advocacy Activities during the past Quarter included:

- É PLF joined with 24 other Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) members in sending a February 2, 2016 letter to U. S. Senate leaders in support of proposed legislation that would improve development of wind, solar and geothermal energy on public lands.
- É PLF joined with 12 other members of the National Horse and Burro Rangeland Management Coalition in sending a March 23, 2016 letter to the House Appropriation Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies and other members of Congress urging them to address the increasing problem of too many wild horses and burros on our valuable rangelands by directing the BLM to remove horses at a rate substantial enough to produce impactful results and protect our resources.

## PLF President Edward W. Shepard's March 23, 2016 testimony on BLM's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget to House Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies

MR. CHAIRMAN:

We thank you for this opportunity to present your committee with our views regarding the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) budget request for FY 2017. As a national, non-profit organization with more than 700 members, comprised principally of retired, but still dedicated, BLM employees, the Public Lands Foundation (PLF) has a unique body of experience, expertise and knowledge of public land management. As retirees, we believe we offer an objective and non-bureaucratic view of what is currently happening on the National System of Public Lands (NSPL). The PLF supports the BLM and its programs, but we are independent in our views and requests. We strive to improve the effectiveness of the BLM by 1) encouraging professionalism of its employees, 2) increasing the public's understanding of and support for the proper management of the NSPL, and 3) promoting scientific management of lands administered by the BLM. We are strong advocates for keeping public lands in public hands.

### Overview

The BLM manages the most diverse landscapes in the Nation's portfolio; providing stewardship to more than 245 million acres of land and 700 million acres of mineral estate from the north slope of Alaska to Jupiter Inlet in Florida, and from tundra, to old growth forests, to desert landscapes. These lands consist of many attributes; habitat for thousands of species of plants and animals, clean water, cultural resources, scenic beauty, solitude, and special places. They also provide the opportunity to provide the Nation with wealth from its many resources including oil and gas, coal, renewable energy, non-energy minerals, all types of recreation, forage for livestock, timber, and wild horses and burros. The economic value of these lands to the American people is immense; according to the

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## PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

*(Continued from Page 4.)*

*Department of the Interior Economic Contribution* report of July 2014, these lands generate combined revenues in excess of \$107 billion and over 446,000 jobs. These lands are important economically to the United States as a whole; they are vital to the many rural communities throughout the West that are intermixed with these lands and whose citizens work and recreate on the lands. However, these uses and values can only be achieved when there is some balance in the programs to provide for the diversity of uses and maintenance of healthy, resilient landscapes.

### Budget Overview

The PLF recognizes and appreciates the difficult decisions that must be made by the Congress and the Administration to allocate scarce dollars to programs that generate the best economic and social returns. The PLF believes the BLM budget proposal strives to provide a balance across most areas that will help it meet national priorities. We support the requests for the ðall of the aboveö approach to provide vital energy needs from traditional energy sources and renewable energy sources. Environmentally sound development of the Nation's energy resources and the infrastructure to deliver the energy can contribute significantly to the country's energy independence. However, we also have some significant concerns over several proposals contained in the request.

We support the BLM's request for Congress to charter a national BLM Foundation, as it has for other land and resource management agencies. Such a Foundation would partner the BLM with the public to bring in key resources and partnerships to assist the BLM in the management of the NSPL. We also support the proposed legislative changes to provide oil and gas inspection fees, and an abandoned mine land fee for new hard rock mines. For example, current estimates to clean up the Gold King Mine in New Mexico are \$9-21 million. An abandoned mine land fee could help fund this clean-up. These types of fees are even more important given the current budget climate.

Over the past several years, the BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and state wildlife management agencies across the West have worked together to develop and implement conservation plans for managing the sage-steppe ecosystem to conserve the Greater sage-grouse and other sage-steppe obligate species to prevent the need to list the sage-grouse under the Endangered Species Act. These efforts along with the substantial increases in sage-grouse funding have been successful in keeping sage-grouse off the threatened and endangered species list. We support the request for an additional \$14.2 million, largely for on the ground treatment to protect sage-grouse habitat from wildfire and invasive species. These efforts are critical in preventing the need to list sage-grouse in the future. Although the southwest states are not focused on sage-grouse, continued funding of collaborative management of ecosystems is critical to sustaining habitat for numerous listed species and those being considered for listing.

We also support the requests for an additional \$16.9 million for planning and \$13.7 million for managing the National Conservation Lands. Planning provides the foundation for all other BLM activities. Increases for Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring targeted for high priority areas such as the Western Solar Energy Plan and the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska; new sage-grouse plans and geospatial are vital to the implementation of other BLM programs. Funding increases are needed for the effective management, particularly for newly designated areas.

BLM has made great progress in its ðEngaging the Next Generationö program. The PLF supports efforts to get youth involved in the outdoors and to gain an appreciation for the resources the Nation offers. Many of the members of PLF gained an appreciation for land management either from working on ranches and farms or by involvement in activities, such as the ones proposed in this budget. We hope some of the partici-

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## PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

*(Continued from Page 5.)*

pants in these programs may decide to go into careers in natural resource management and fill the jobs of the many employees nearing retirement.

We are pleased to see the continued emphasis BLM is placing on youth programs. The Phoenix Youth Initiative, Hands on the Land, and Take it Outside are all tremendous programs getting youth engaged in natural resources and the outdoors. However, when it comes to hiring these young people, the agencies are hindered tremendously by hiring practices that make it difficult to hire young people and interns who have participated in these programs. In short, tremendous work has been done in the Play, Learn, Serve aspects of the Secretary's youth initiative, but there has been little progress in the Work component.

One of the biggest challenges that the BLM faces is finding a workable and acceptable solution to the Wild Horse and Burro problem. There is probably no BLM issue that receives more passionate input from the public and local governments than this program. The BLM has tried several approaches to resolve the problem of rapidly expanding horse populations yet continues to be stymied in finding and effectively implementing a solution that the public will accept. The budget proposes to start research on more effective fertility control methods and other actions suggested by the National Academy of Science study, but results from these actions are years off and will involve study and preparation of lengthy National Environmental Policy Act documents and, likely, result in litigation. Meanwhile the herds continue to grow, doubling every four to five years. In addition, the cost to feed and care for these animals for their relatively long life consumes a major part of the program budget. We applaud BLM's efforts to increase cooperative efforts in managing wild horses and burros. However, pursuing cooperative efforts takes work. It is incomprehensible to us that wild horse and burro program funding would be reduced, even by only \$572,000 at such a critical time.

Of equal concern is the elimination of the Challenge Cost Share program. This program has

been successful for many years in generating partnerships and providing for on the ground work which otherwise would not be accomplished. There is a mechanism in place to ensure projects support the highest priorities of the Bureau. In addition, each dollar of challenge cost share money generates at least a dollar of matching funds. Eliminating the \$2.4 million dollar program would effectively be a reduction of \$4.8 in on the ground management capability.

Another concern is the reduction in the O&C program of nearly \$1 million in addition to the \$6 million reduction in the 2016 enacted budget. The O&C Districts are scheduled to complete new Resource Management Plans in 2016. The management prescriptions under the new plans are complex as BLM works to balance its obligations to manage forests to provide timber and revenue and conservation of listed species. We request that funding for the O&C maintained at no less than the 2016 level of \$108 million.

A large part of managing the landscapes for resiliency involves managing for wildfire. Agencies in the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service have discussed for years the need to manage fuel loads and to implement more actions on the ground to build resiliency in forest and rangelands to reduce the risks and severity of catastrophic wildfire. The area needing treatment is huge. There has been improvement in conditions where projects have been implemented, however the scale and pace of treatments needs to expand and this can only be done with adequate budgets and a large landscape approach, which can only be accomplished with close coordination with other Federal, state and local agencies, and private property owners.

The agencies also do a great job of suppressing nearly all of the wildland fire starts, catching around 98% of the fires with initial attack. However, the one or two percent of fires that escape initial attack become very expensive and over the past several years have quickly consumed the agencies suppression budget

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**PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES***(Continued from Page 6.)*

requiring them to borrow from other accounts. This transfer of funds, often in the hundreds of millions of dollars, diminishes the agencies capabilities to implement planned fuel reduction and projects in other program areas. The PLF supports the Department's Wildland Fire proposal to change the way large fires are funded to provide more flexibility to the agencies in funding suppression and land treatment projects. Much of the Department's proposal compliments the proposed Wildfire Disaster Funding Act (WFDA). The PLF supports the proposed changes in this budget and encourages the passage of the WFDA or similar legislation.

The PLF strongly supports the dedicated professional employees of the BLM and other agencies. The nature of the BLM mission is employee intense. Some of the work can be done by contractors, but much of it requires BLM employees that are professionally trained in their respective fields. These public employees enter these fields because of their commitment to the lands and resources. Over the years these committed public servants have done their best to implement the laws and policies of the Administration and Congress, yet they are often maligned and even physically confronted by those that disagree with those laws and policies. We ask that this subcommittee do what it can within its powers to support the dedicated employees in the resource management agencies.

Mr. Chairman, we do appreciate the hard choices that this Subcommittee has before it. Perhaps the creation of a BLM Foundation would help leverage scarce budget dollars. The BLM is the only major land management agency without a congressionally chartered foundation in place to support its efforts. A BLM Foundation could help bring additional resources to key initiatives like the National Conservation Lands, wild horses and burro management, restoration projects, and many other areas. We hope that our comments will be of help as you work through the FY 2017 budget process.

PLF President Edward W. Shepard  
March 23, 2016

**THIRD BIENNIAL STUDENT CONGRESS**

Planning for the next Student Congress has been underway since December. The dates will be September 8-11, 2016, immediately preceding the next PLF annual meeting. Both events will be in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Dr. Garrey Carruthers, former DOI Assistant Secretary, former New Mexico Governor, and current President of New Mexico State University, has agreed to provide the keynote address on the first day.

This year the Student Congress will focus on FLPMA. Students will explore topics such as FLPMA and the State vs. Federal Control debate, balancing development with sustainability, FLPMA as the foundation for a National Land Ethic and the meaning of multiple use and sustained yield. John Freemuth (Boise State University), Jamie Skillen (author of *The Nation's Largest Landlord*), Linda Rundell, and Elaine Brong have all agreed to be advisors and facilitators. Mike Pool has been invited to speak at the banquet on Saturday night. We are awaiting word on his availability.

Anybody who wants to come to Las Cruces a little early and observe the Student Congress is welcome to do so. The students will deliver their report on Sunday morning September 11. That would be an especially interesting time to come and observe the students in action.

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Enjoy us on YouTube at:  
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**BLM AND PUBLIC LAND NEWS**

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

**Two new National Monuments created in the Southern California Desert:** On February 12, 2016, President Obama signed a proclamation declaring two National Monuments on BLM lands in the Southern California Desert.

The Mojave Trails National Monument includes 1.6 million acres of BLM lands in the BLM's Needles Field Office area. The new Monument includes 350,000 acres of congressionally-designated Wilderness, and is a mosaic of rugged mountain ranges, ancient lava flows and spectacular sand dunes. The monument protects irreplaceable historic resources including ancient Native American trading routes, World War II training camps and the longest remaining undeveloped stretch of Route 66.

The Sand to Snow National Monument in the BLM's Palm Springs - South Coast Field Office area consists of 83,000 acres of BLM and 71,000 acres of Forest Service lands. The land in the Monument rises from the floor of the Sonoran Desert to the region's tallest alpine mountain. The Monument will help protect sacred, archaeological and cultural sites, including an estimated 1,700 Native American petroglyphs. The Monument has 30 miles of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and the area is a favorite for camping, hiking, horseback riding photography, wildlife viewing, and even skiing.

**BLM Seeks Nominations for 2016 Reclamation and Sustainable Mineral Development Awards Program:** The BLM is seeking nominations for the 2016 Reclamation and Sustainable Mineral Development Awards. Awards fall under five categories:

- É The Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award,
- É The Hardrock Mineral Community Outreach and Economic Security Award,
- É The Hardrock Mineral Small Operator Award,
- É The Hardrock Mineral Director's Award, and
- É The Fix A Shaft Today (FAST) Award.

These non-monetary awards highlight some of the finest examples of responsible mineral resource de-

velopment and illustrate the principles of sustainable development. Mining companies, regulatory authorities, geologists, and members of the public may nominate operators or organizations in non-coal minerals industries for an award. Nominations are not limited to operations on land managed by the BLM.

**BLM Seeks bids for pastures to Care for Wild Horses:** The BLM is seeking proposals for contractors who can provide humane care for a minimum of 200 wild horses in a free-roaming pasture setting on an annual basis. The BLM states that this is a perfect opportunity to diversify a ranching operation. Proposals must show that the pastures are located in one of the following States: Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

**President proposes \$1.3 Billion Budget for BLM in FY 2017:** President Obama has requested a \$1.3 billion budget for the BLM in FY 2017, more than \$7 million above the BLM's 2016 enacted budget. This 2017 budget for the BLM will strengthen the Administration's commitment to restoring and conserving the Nation's sage-steppe ecosystem, supports the safe and effective management of the agency's oil and gas programs, makes historic investments in the BLM's National Conservation Lands, and takes a proactive approach to better management of the unsustainable proliferation of wild horses and burros on Western public lands.

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### GEORGE LEA FOUNDER'S SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS SOUGHT

As mentioned in the President's Column, there has been approximately \$7,000 donated toward this year's two \$5,000 scholarships. YOUR HELP IS NEEDED to raise the remaining \$3,000. For those who would like to donate, there is still time to do so. You can make a contribution by sending a check to PLF Treasurer Dwight Hempel, P.O. Box 188, Blue Diamond, Nevada 89004 with a notation that the funds are for the George Lea Founder's Scholarship Fund. Your contribution will be greatly appreciated.



## PLF LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

Each year the PLF recognizes individuals, families and organizations that have worked to advance and sustain community-based stewardship on landscapes that include, in whole or in part, lands administered by the BLM.

In 2015, the PLF recognized one individual, a family, and two organizations with an Award to the Gila Watershed Partnership in Arizona and Certificates of Appreciation to the Arizona BLM Resource Advisory Council's Grazing Subcommittee, the Browning Family in the Lewiston BLM Field Office area of Montana, and Jeb Kaul, a Fisheries Biologist for the Long Tom Watershed Council in the Willamette Valley and in the BLM's Siuslaw Resource Area of the Eugene District.

The citations for the Award to the Gila Watershed Partnership and the Certificate to the BLM Resource Advisory Council Grazing Subcommittee were included in the PLF's winter edition of the *Monitor*. The following are the Citations to the Browning Family and Jed Kaul.

### CITATION Browning Family

The Public Lands Foundation presents the Browning Family with a 2015 Landscape Stewardship Certificate of Appreciation and this Citation. The Foundation grants this recognition to honor private citizens and organizations that work to advance and sustain community-based stewardship on landscapes that include, in whole or in part, public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Tim and Sara Browning and Tom and Karen Browning have been great advocates for the Central Montana District prescribed fire program and are promoting the benefits of these treatments at local grazing district meetings and in their daily dealings with neighbors and community.

The Browning Family, along with non-governmental organizations, has enabled the implementation of a

series of landscape-scale prescribed fires and mechanical treatments in which the BLM plans to treat 160,000 acres of forested areas that are unnaturally dense due to fire suppression over the past 100 years.

The Browning Family started working with the BLM during the planning phases of the project in 2005, with interest in sound management on the land. They continued participation with the first project being implemented in 2009. Since then, five prescribed burns totaling over 15,000 acres have been implemented. Four of these burns involved their grazing allotments. In addition, the Browning Family has been willing to incorporate approximately 1,530 acres of their private land into these treatments to improve cost effectiveness, and safety during project implementation. Their commitment to stewardship and sound management is quite apparent. And, this cooperation and support has been vital to the success the BLM has enjoyed over the past ten years.

The building of trust and commitment is not an easy or quick process. The shared sense of stewardship responsibility that the BLM and Browning Family share has led to significant project implementation successes that have improved the health of the land and the wildlife upon it, while protecting the fire fighters and first responders who work to manage the many natural fire starts which occur in the area. These accomplishments and successes have not gone unnoticed in the local communities and are allowing the BLM to build new relationships and increase trust in existing relationships.

The efforts of the Browning Family and their willingness to share their story are leading to additional support for the prescribed fire program by neighboring ranches.

The Public Lands Foundation is pleased to present Tim and Sara Browning and Tom and Karen Browning with a 2015 Landscape Stewardship Certificate of Appreciation and this Citation for invaluable contributions to the stewardship of America's public landscapes.

/s/ Edward W. Shepard  
PLF President

September 22, 2015

**PLF LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION**

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**Browning Family Certificate of Appreciation**

(L to R) Dan Brunkhorst (Planning & Environmental Coordinator, BLM Dakotas Lewistown Field Office), Josh Barta (Range Technician, BLM Central Montana District), Tim Browning, Tom Browning, Katie Decker (Rangeland Management Specialist, BLM Dakotas Lewistown Field Office, and Dave Mari (PLF Director-at-Large)

**CITATION  
Jed Kaul**

The Public Lands Foundation presents Jed Kaul with a 2015 Landscape Stewardship Certificate of Appreciation and this Citation. The Foundation grants this recognition to honor private citizens and organizations that work to advance and sustain community-based stewardship on landscapes that include, in whole or in part, public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Jed Kaul is a Fisheries Biologist for the Long Tom Watershed Council. Founded in 1998, the Long Tom Watershed Council is a nonprofit organization made up of a group of diverse stakeholders, conservationists and scientists dedicated to the protection and restoration of the lands and waters within the basin. This Council is recognized as one of the best in the State of Oregon. The Council's Fisheries Program, led by Jed Kaul, focuses on riparian restoration and associated aquatic species monitoring.

Jed has contributed years of cooperative landscape stewardship that not only includes restoration work on private lands but also within BLM managed sub-watersheds within the Long Tom River Basin.

Hundreds of aquatic species barrier culverts within the Long Tom Basin have been cooperatively identified and prioritized by Jed and BLM Fisheries Staff. Much of the baseline planning for these culvert replacements was accomplished by Jed. The Long Tom Fisheries Staff has partnered with the BLM and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff (Findley Wildlife Refuge) to restore oak and prairie habitat. Douglas fir logs removed as a result of the oak restoration were placed in numerous streams within Long Tom River tributaries to enhance native cutthroat trout habitat.

Most recently, Jed led a team of professionals from the BLM, State of Oregon, and Lane County, as well as local landowners in planning and implementing the multifaceted, multiyear Bear Creek Restoration Project. This endeavor began in 2006 in its planning phases and is nearing completion in 2015. The complex project includes removal of four major instream barriers, instream log placements and riparian plantings. Jed spent long hours securing project funding (grant and project proposal writing) for all aspects of this work. His vision and ability to work with professionals and local landowners was a key factor in seeing this project through all phases.

During these times of tight BLM budgets and critical staff losses, Jed and the Long Tom Watershed Council have stepped up to help the Siuslaw Resource Area complete essential aquatic restoration projects and natural resource goals.

The Public Lands Foundation is pleased to present Jed Kaul with a 2015 Landscape Stewardship Certificate of Appreciation and this Citation for invaluable contributions to the stewardship of America's public landscapes.

/s/ Edward W. Shepard  
PLF President

September 22, 2015

**PLF LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP  
CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION**

*(Continued from Page 10.)*



(L to R) Nick Scheidt (BLM Fish Biologist, Siuslaw Field Office), Mike Korn (BLM Siuslaw Field Manager), Ed Shepard (PLF President), Jed Kaul (Long Tom Watershed Council), Kathy Stangl (BLM Eugene District Manager), Dick Prather (PLF Oregon State Representative), Leo Poole (Retired BLM Fish Biologist, Siuslaw Field Office).

**THE PAST AND THE FUTURE: A BLM/PLF  
PARTNERSHIP PROJECT  
BLM RETIREES NEEDED**

**B**LM retirees are needed to participate in "The Past and the Future: A BLM/PLF Partnership Project." We now have over 80 matchups with BLM retirees and new BLM employees, but we need more retirees to link up with students that will be attending the BLM's May 2016 Pathways course.

This project gives retirees a chance to share their experiences with a new BLM employee and an opportunity to learn from a new employee, hearing what challenges they face in their career with the BLM.

This project is about the students at the BLM Pathways course having an opportunity to connect with a PLF partner (retiree). Participation will allow relatively new employees to develop a relationship

with a retiree with a long history with BLM.

PLF partners do not need to attend the Pathways course in May. BLM employees attending the Pathways course will select a PLF partner from a list of retirees that we will provide. The BLM employees will select a PLF partner who has a background and experience that is of interest to them, and hopefully in close geographic proximity to where they live.

Once the match is made, the PLF partner will receive the student's contact information and contact the Pathways student to arrange a time and place for the interviews to take place. Both of the interviews are to be recorded. PLF has several recording devices that can be made available.

The recorded interview of the PLF partner will become "a little piece of the oral history" of BLM.

The interview of the Pathways participant will be used to help the PLF and the BLM learn more about new employees; including their goals and interests; and, the challenges facing them.

To sign up, or get more information, please contact Elaine Zielinski by e-mail at [Elaine.zielinski@gmail.com](mailto:Elaine.zielinski@gmail.com) or phone at 480-292-0341, or Beau McClure at [vpops@publicland.org](mailto:vpops@publicland.org).

**REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS FOR PLF's  
LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARDS**

**O**nce again the Public Lands Foundation is accepting nominations of a 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. PLF members and BLM employees are encouraged to submit nominations by August 1, 2016. Winners will be determined at our Board of Directors meeting in Las Cruces, New Mexico, in September.

The BLM has a variety of land use plans and pro-

*(Continued on Page 12.)*

## REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS FOR PLF'S LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARDS

*(Continued from Page 11.)*

jects that are intended to address the use, allocation and improvement of the National System of Public Lands. Organizations and individuals outside of government are often the catalysts for demonstrating effective approaches for achieving good stewardship of these lands and resources. Good stewardship may be defined as an ethic that embodies cooperative planning and management of resources by agencies, organizations, communities and others actively engaged to prevent loss of resources and facilitate their improvement in the interest of long-term sustainability. PLF's Landscape Stewardship Award honors the work done by private citizens who work to advance and sustain community-based stewardship on landscapes that include, in whole or in part, lands administered by BLM. The focus on landscapes is intended to be broad in nature versus project oriented volunteer efforts.

The organizations, groups and individuals typically envisioned for this award are those that took a leadership role to address landscape scale issues. A good example would be a coalition of various citizen groups joining together to address issues within a certain landscape to bring about improved stewardship. Usually they are individual local citizens or groups comprised of local citizens that are typically all-volunteer without paid staff.

The Award is a citation acknowledging the nature and significance of the awardee's achievements.

The nomination form and guidelines can be found on the PLF website, [www.publicland.org](http://www.publicland.org), by going to "Awards" page in the Directory.

Please send nominations by August 1, 2016 to Beau McClure, Vice President for Operations, Public Lands Foundation, 6510 W. Lucia Drive, Phoenix, Arizona, 85083-7406; or by e-mail (preferred) [vpops@publicland.org](mailto:vpops@publicland.org).

## REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS FOR PLF'S LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD

Each year at the PLF's Annual Meeting, one or more Lifetime Service Awards are given in recognition of prestigious lifetime performance by a BLM career employee that has benefited the management of Public Lands administered by the BLM. The Award is granted as a living or posthumous Lifetime Service Award, and may include two individuals per year in each category. The PLF Lifetime Service Award procedures and criteria are listed on the Awards page of the PLF website at [www.publicland.org](http://www.publicland.org).

Nominations are welcome from all sources, including BLM employees and organizational units, PLF members, interest groups associated with various public land issues, and local and state governmental officials.

Nominations may be for any career BLM employee regardless of job grade, position profession, etc. Nominees must have had a career that lasted at least 30 years of which 20 or more years were with the BLM. This requirement may be waived if the nominee substantially completed the time and the career was terminated by death or disablement. Nominations must have three endorsements by individuals who have knowledge of the nominee's accomplishments.

Evaluation Factors include:

1. Depicted sustained dedication and performance with respect to issues and challenges that resulted in significant advances in management of Public Lands.
2. Personal attributes that exhibited vision and foresight that affected public land resource management and further inspired various public and employee participation and initiative.
3. Exceptional professional and public recognition in leadership that "made a difference," locally or nationally.

*(Continued on Page 13.)*

## REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS FOR PLF'S LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD

(Continued from Page 12.)

4. Instrumental in the development of effectiveness of employees for future management and custody of the Public Lands.

5. Any other factors that demonstrate the nominee's commitment and resourcefulness to warrant recognition for furthering the stature of career service.

Please send nominations and endorsements by August 1, 2016 to Beau McClure, Vice President for Operations, Public Lands Foundation, 6510 W. Lucia Drive, Phoenix, Arizona, 85083-7406, or by e-mail (preferred) at [vpops@publicland.org](mailto:vpops@publicland.org).

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## PLF ARCHIVES RELOCATED WITHIN THE BLM NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER

Members of the Arizona Chapter of the PLF have been busy moving the PLF Archives out of two rooms on the third floor of one of the buildings at the BLM's National Training Center (NTC) and into another larger room on the third floor of another building in the BLM National Training Center complex in Phoenix, Arizona. The NTC is making some space adjustments to accommodate another federal agency's use of the third floor in one of the three buildings in the NTC complex.

The PLF Archives was established in 1992 as a place to collect and store historical materials related to the BLM, the BLM lands, and the people who worked for the BLM. Paul Rigtrup, who had recently retired from the agency, led the effort to establish the PLF Archives. The BLM's National Training Center (NTC) at 9328 N. 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Phoenix AZ 85051 provided space for the PLF Archives, and the Arizona Chapter of PLF has a Memorandum of Understanding with the NTC for the use of space on the third floor of the NTC for the PLF Archives. The PLF provides

historical materials for use in the BLM NTC's training programs and volunteers to help with the Pathways training sessions conducted at the NTC.

The PLF Archives was first established with five files in one file cabinet, several books in one bookcase and a computer to record the index of files. In 23 years, the PLF Archives has expanded to 13 file cabinets, a large map cabinet, and five bookcases, and the most recent file is numbered 1504.

Some of the PLF Archives files contain only a letter, a photo, or a brief report; some subject matter files and the BLM Office location files are huge. There are individual files on each of the 92 BLM State and District/Field offices that contain photos, maps, and other information about office personnel, programs, projects and events in that office and jurisdiction.

And, it isn't all paper and photos. We have examples of GLO Tract Books from the late 1800s; a BLM Master Title Plat binder from the 1950s; a drawer full of Johnny Horizon bags and memorabilia; a library of books about the history of public lands; several land patents dating back to the late 1800s; complete sets of the "Range Rider" - a Grazing Service newsletter published in the early 1940s; the BLM's "Our/Your Public Lands" published 1951 - 1986; BLM's "Personnel Highlights" published 1951 - 1981; and "Inside Track" published in 1980s and 1990s. And the most recent donation, from recently retired "Chip" Calamaio, is a wooden file cabinet that was originally used by the General Land Office making it an appropriate addition to the PLF's Archives. All of these historical materials filled 107 banker boxes in the recent move to the new PLF Archives location.

Most of the PLF Archives materials come from BLM retirees, many of whom report that their spouse is glad that there is a PLF Archives available to take this stuff out of their house. We don't keep everything, but we usually find at least a few "treasures" in every box. We also get materials from BLM employees who want to make sure that historical information is saved.

*(Continued on Page 14.)*

## PLF ARCHIVES RELOCATED WITHIN THE BLM NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER

*(Continued from Page 13.)*

Some examples are:

- É five boxes of historical information and materials used for BLM's Range Reform and grazing fee study project in the 1990s that were sent to the PLF Archives by members of that BLM project team who felt it was important to save this historical background information about grazing fees, and
- É Andy Senti sent three boxes of background materials from the Missouri River Basin Land Classification Project in 1948 ó 1954 which helped establish the new BLM as a land management agency, and which he had stored in the basement of the BLM's Denver Service Center for 50 years.

The PLF Archives computer is used for record keeping, but the PLF Archives does not have access to the internet. However, the list of PLF Archives materials is available to the public on the PLF Archives page of the PLF [www.publicland.org](http://www.publicland.org) website.

The biggest users of the PLF Archives are writers doing research for books and articles about public lands, and the BLM looking for copies of historical materials they no longer have.

The PLF Archives is managed by the Arizona Chapter of the PLF. Glen Collins inherited the "manager" role from Paul Rigtrup about 10 years ago; Phil Moreland maintains the master list of PLF Archives Files; Wayne Winterton maintains the PLF Archives records on the PLF's [www.publicland.org](http://www.publicland.org) website; and various members of the PLF's Arizona Chapter help with sorting donated materials and setting up new Archives files.

During this past year the PLF Arizona Chapter purchased a scanner and printer and has copied and made separate files for most of the articles in the

BLM's "Our/Your Public Lands" publications to give more visibility to the historical information that is "hidden" in these publications.

And lastly, the PLF Archives plays one other very important role for the PLF. It serves as a "central files" for the Public Lands Foundation. The PLF Archives has six file drawers filled with PLF's corporate documents, financial records, publications, advocacy statements, administrative policies, meeting reports and the like, and the Officers and Directors of the PLF each have a copy of the list of the types of documents in these PLF "central files."

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## SPECIAL DUES PAYMENTS

### Contributing Members:

Mel Berg	Kemp Conn
John Fields	Mike Gardner
Howard S. Geber Jr	Stephen Hansen
Earl Hindley	Glen Miller
Neil Mork	Jimmie Pribble
John Radosta	William Ruddick
Lewis Trout	Champ Vaughn

### Sustaining Members:

Mark Lawrence	Teri Raml
Martin Zimmer	

### Life Members:

Judy Nelson	Rosemary Thomas
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## DONATIONS

Linda Johnson  
Marv LeNoue (Scholarship Fund)  
Christine Pitcairn-Wiley

**IN MEMORIAM**

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

**Daniel (Buddy) Arvizo**, BLM Resource Area Manager in Boise, Idaho, on February 5, 2016, in Phoenix, Arizona.

**John R. Bernick**, Land Law Examiner for BLM in Denver, Colorado; on January 27, 2016; in Huntsburg, Ohio.

**Gayle Erickson**, who was a Docket Clerk in the BLM Alaska State Office in Anchorage, Alaska, on June 5, 2015, in Henderson, Nevada.

**Verna May Fairlee**, who worked for BLM for 47 years in Cadastral Survey, on March 11, 2016, in Billings, Montana.

**Lloyd Ferguson**, BLM Resource Area Manager and District Manager at Idaho Falls, Idaho; and District Manager at Filmore and Vernal, Utah; on February 9, 2016; in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

**Joseph Kent Giles**, Range Manager, Natural Resource Specialist, and District Manager for the BLM in Murray, Utah; Burns, Oregon; Elko, Nevada; St. George, Utah; and Washington, D.C.; on February 2, 2016; in St. George, Utah.

**James Hancock**, longtime BLM District Manager at Prineville, Oregon; on March 24, 2016; in Prineville, Oregon.

**Arden "Candy" Johnson**, who worked for the BLM Public Affairs Offices in Sacramento and Riverside, California and Washington, D. C.; on January 20, 2016; in Sacramento, California.

**Willard Kemp**, BLM Realty Specialist and Land Appraiser in Phoenix, Arizona and Spokane, Washington; on February 14, 2016; in Spokane, Washington.

**Albert Andrew Najar**, who worked for the BLM in New Mexico; on February 5, 2016; in Carrizozo, New Mexico.

**Dennis Nielsen**, longtime Safety Officer in the BLM Fairbanks and Anchorage Offices, on February 7, 2016; in Tucson, Arizona.

**Nancy Rosson**, Secretary to BLM California State Directors in Sacramento, California on December 31, 2015.

**Kenneth Claude Schulte**, who worked in the BLM Riverside and Barstow Offices in California; on February 7, 2016 in Barstow, California.

**James Robert (Bob) Tigner**, Wildlife Specialist for the BLM in Wyoming, on January 7, 2016, in Saratoga, Wyoming.

**Joshua (Josh) Warburton**, BLM Resource Area Manager at Burley, Idaho; District Manager in Burns, Oregon, and worked in the Budget Office in the BLM Headquarters Office in Washington, D.C.; on January 11, 2016; in Burns, Oregon.

**James (Jim) Welden**, BLM forester in the Medford District, Oregon; on February 29, 2016; in Medford, Oregon.

**Rita Wood**, who worked in Docket in the BLM Alaska State Office in Anchorage, Alaska; on February 27, 2016; in Anchorage, Alaska.

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS****Received from:**

Robert Abbey  
Robert Buffington  
Larry Evans  
Marv LeNoue  
Les Rosenkrance  
Rosemary Thomas  
Jack Wilson  
Elaine Zielinski

Levi Deike  
Mark Lawrence

**In Memory of:**

Andy Senti  
Clair Whitlock  
Clair Whitlock  
Clair Whitlock  
Clair Whitlock  
Clair Whitlock  
Clair Whitlock  
Clair Whitlock and  
Andy Senti  
H. Doyle Kline  
Bill & Helen Leavell

# Public Lands Foundation

P.O. Box 7226 Arlington, VA 22207

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

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

### **Public Lands Foundation Goals**

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

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE - \$350

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



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