The Public Lands Foundation (PLF) is a national non-profit organization whose members are primarily retired and former employees of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Department of the Interior.

The PLF advocates the management, protection, development, and enhancement of the National System of Public Lands, which is managed by the BLM. The PLF works for the retention of America’s public lands in public hands, professionally and sustainably managed for responsible common use and enjoyment.

The Public Lands Foundation (PLF) was founded in 1987 by former BLM Assistant Director George Lea. When Mr. Lea retired in the mid-1980s he joined with other BLM retirees and formed the PLF. Mr. Lea’s passion for the land and resources continues to this day as he is still active on the Foundation’s Board of Directors.

George Lea
Founder

FOR STUDENTS PURSUING
POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION IN A
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OR
PUBLIC LAND POLICY FIELD OF STUDY
THE PUBLIC LANDS FOUNDATION OFFERS TWO GEORGE LEA FOUNDER’S SCHOLARSHIPS EACH YEAR TO HIGHLY QUALIFIED STUDENTS WHO NEED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO COMPLETE THEIR SCHOOLING.

THE SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship consists of the following three elements:

• $5,000 to be used toward the student’s tuition expenses.
• An invitation to attend the next PLF annual meeting with all transportation and living expenses paid.
• The opportunity to “shadow” a local BLM manager for a day.

WHO MAY APPLY

• All juniors, seniors, and masters-level graduate students majoring in a natural resource program or public land policy field.
• Students who demonstrate academic excellence with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0.
• Full time students planning on carrying at least 12 units per semester, or enrolled in a Master’s level graduate program.
• Students will also be rated based on financial need, related volunteerism, professional society participation, employment, etc.

ANNUAL COST

• $10,000 – direct awards to two student accounts ($5,000 each)
• $500-1,000 per student for travel to PLF annual meeting
• Zero administrative costs

PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

2017
Graduate Student, Range and Wildlife, Sul Ross State University, TX
Undergraduate (Junior), Environmental Studies, Michigan State University

2016
Graduate Student, Anthropology New Mexico State University
Undergraduate (Junior), Wildlife and Fisheries, West Virginia University

2015
Undergraduate (Senior), Parks and Recreation, Arizona State University
Undergraduate (Senior), Adventure Tourism, Prescott College, AZ

2014
Undergraduate (Senior), Forestry Oregon State University

AN ELECTRONIC COPY OF THE APPLICATION FORM CAN BE FOUND http://publicland.org/what-we-do/scholarships