



For America's Heritage

THE PUBLIC LANDS Monitor

Editors:
Patricia Harvey
Geoff Middaugh

Address: P.O. Box 7226 Arlington, VA 22207
Website: www.publicland.org

Phone: 703-935-0916
Email: info@publicland.org

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2018 ELECTION RESULTS

By Beau McClure,
Vice-President for Operations

The 2018 election results are in, and all nominees were voted into office. We thank Jesse Juen for doing an outstanding job as our President in 2017. And, we also thank Ed Shepard for stepping up and agreeing to again be our President.

A few changes have occurred since the election process was completed. As of January 1, Jesse Juen is replacing Rosemary Thomas as our State Representative for New Mexico; Rosemary Thomas is replacing Linda Rundell as a Director-at-Large; and Ray Brady is replacing Don Meares as Director-at-Large.

We wish to thank all of these out-going and in-coming people for their service, as well as all PLF Board Members.

2017 LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARD WINNER Sandy and Geoff Freethey

Nominated by Jennifer Jones, Assistant Field Manager, Recreation, Moab Field Office, Utah.

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.

The Freetheys, who were nominated by the BLM Moab Field Office, have devoted untold time and effort towards managing responsible recreation on BLM-administered lands in the Moab area. For 10 years Sandy was chairperson of a county committee known as "Trail Mix," and Geoff was a committed volunteer. Trail Mix engages with area Federal agencies in managing non-motorized recreation. Sandy and Geoff each worked at least 60 hours per week as volunteers while leading Trail Mix to a series of accomplishments.

BLM was experiencing difficulties with numerous unauthorized mountain bike trails. Trail Mix, led by the Freetheys, resolved to curtail the illegal bike activity and to help develop new trails that were consistent with the Resource Management Plan. They mobilized volunteers to help obliterate and block "pirate" trails. Geoff applied his extensive GIS skills to avoid resource conflicts involving possible new routes. These routes were then ground-truthed before being submitted to BLM for consideration. They then accompanied BLM resource specialists in the field to make further route adjustments.

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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

Let me start off by saying that I am honored that you have elected me to serve as the PLF president. I appreciate your support and look forward to serving you for another term. I also want to say a big thank you to Jesse Juen for serving as PLF president for the past year.

Jesse, you have done an outstanding job of moving PLF forward. You put an outstanding team in place and under your leadership PLF is being recognized like never before. THANK YOU!!!!

Since I stepped aside as president last year, a lot has changed in the organization. PLF is being recognized by many for the expertise we have in public land management and as a source of information on how public lands should be managed. Over the past year I have observed the PLF become more active in testifying before Congress (see Ray Brady's summary of testimony later in this *Monitor*), both through witnesses and written statements on important issues such as energy, wild horses, planning, wildland fire, and reorganization. I have seen PLF leadership being quoted in the press, and, thanks to George Stone, becoming more active on social media. Just today, before starting to write this article, I saw where Jesse's blog on mechanized equipment in wilderness areas was picked up by the LA Times with a link back to the PLF. This is great stuff!

At the same time all of these advances are being made, it is good to see that we are continuing with the strong programs we have had for some time, including the Student Congress, George Lea Founder's Scholarship, and the Past and the Future Program. And of course, we are also continuing with our strong advocacy for retaining public lands in public ownership and supporting the thousands of dedicated BLM employees.

It is important that the PLF continue with these programs and strategically look for other ways that we can advance our mission. However, all of this takes resources; time, effort, and money. In my opinion, if we

want the PLF to continue to gain recognition for the good work we are doing and to grow the programs, we must grow the organization's membership and treasury. We have committees working on strategic planning and on fund raising that will help us focus our activities in the future. Now, we need to focus some energy on increasing our membership numbers and reaching out to the membership to get more membership involvement in the PLF's work. This is where I intend to focus my energy over the next year, and I look forward to the annual meeting in September in Montana where we will be discussing how PLF strategically moves forward.

Again, thank you for your support in electing me to serve as your president, and thank you to Jesse, Don, Beau, Dwight, Geoff, and all of the Board for what you do. I am looking forward to the next year!

PLF OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Jesse Juen

Wow, this year has passed by quickly! Seems I was just out getting my Christmas tree from public land last year, and here this past weekend my wife and I were out getting one for this year. While out, we also explored some of our wonderful public land, visited with one of our wonderful rangers and posted a couple photos on PLF's Instagram. Yep, even I can kick stuff over to George Stone and get it posted! Thank you, George for dragging me into the 21st century!

I joined PLF nearly 3 years ago with the idea to learn more about how we could best help keep public lands in public hands. This has been an experience full of working with great, dedicated, hard-working people who have an amazing amount of commitment to sustaining our public lands and its multiple use mission. One of the most exciting things I have learned over the last year is how many different groups look to PLF to help get the message out about the needs and value of our public lands. They have tremendous respect for the knowledge and experience that we offer on the wide variety of new or proposed programs, policies and laws that continually influence public land management now and into the future.

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PLF OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

(Continued from Page 2.)

PLF has weighed in on energy production, planning and NEPA, national monuments, reorganization, wild horse and burros, and many, many other fronts. We are using a variety of traditional and social media forums to share our knowledge, perspectives and recommendations, and I hope to see that grow over time. I am also learning how important social media has been for engaging our membership on different topics, educating the public on issues, and garnering the understanding and support across a broad spectrum of public land users and managers.

PLF has also done a tremendous job of raising our visibility through our Student Congress, George Lea Founder's Scholarship Fund and the Past and the Future Program. It is tremendously important to continue our emphasis in connecting our youth with public land issues and management, as they will be tomorrow's leaders.

With our elections now complete, we are extremely fortunate to have Ed Shepard as our President starting January 1, 2018. My personal thanks to the entire membership for your help and advice over the last year. A special thanks to Beau McClure, Don Simpson, George Stone, Dwight Hempel, Geoff Middaugh, the Directors-at-Large and State Representatives for your passion and service to the foundation. We couldn't do it without you. Have a blessed holiday season with family, friends, and furry/feathered friends as well.

2017 LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARD WINNERS

(Continued from Page 1.)

Their leadership and vision helped accomplish the reality of a responsible mountain bike single-track trail system for the Moab area. They motivated the mountain bike community to build a trail system in cooperation with BLM rather than in confrontation. This trail system, which is about 150 miles, has revitalized the non-motorized recreation economy in Moab as well by avoiding conflicts between the mountain bike community and other recreational users.

These efforts have built trust among users. There is a sense of shared stewardship for the bike trails. Bike trail users and designers are proud of their small environmental footprint. "Rogue" cycling behavior is met with an immediate response, and illegal trail building is a thing of the past.

Sandy and Geoff have now "retired" from Trail Mix and are now each volunteering 60 hours per week at the BLM Moab Field Office. They recently received an award from the Grand County Council which referred to them as "our most venerable and hardest working county volunteers."

The Public Lands Foundation is pleased to present Sandy and Geoff Freethey with its 2017 Landscape Stewardship Award and this Citation for invaluable contributions to the stewardship of America's public landscapes.

/s/ Jesse J. Juen President

September 12, 2017



Maggie Wyatt (right), PLF Director-at-Large, presents Geoff & Sandy Freethey with 2017 Landscape Stewardship Award.

**2017 LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP
CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION
Soda Fire Partners**

Nominated by June Shoemaker, Deputy State Director, Resource Services, Idaho State Office on behalf of State Director, Tim Murphy

The Public Lands Foundation presents the Soda Fire Partners with its 2017 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.

The Soda Fire Partners, which was nominated by the BLM Idaho State Office, is a coalition of Federal, state, and local agencies and private landowners who have developed and implemented stabilization, rehabilitation, and fuels projects across the landscape of southwestern Idaho and southeastern Oregon. The coalition formed following the Soda Fire in 2015, which burned 280,000 acres and created significant economic, social, and natural resource impacts in the Great Basin.

The Partners seek a shared vision of a resistant and resilient landscape which has a mixture of sagebrush,

perennial grasses, and forbs that can adjust to normal disturbance from fire, drought, livestock grazing, and other management practices without continued vegetation treatments or a conversion of annual grasslands. The team works together to respond to landscape-scale issues that affect multiple jurisdictions. It conducts field trips, public meetings, and stakeholder discussions to ensure projects address a range of issues and opportunities. The breadth of issues addressed and the commitment of the partners have helped to build support for important treatments that are needed to restore the landscape to resistance and resilience after a fire.

The private land owners and livestock operators, the U. S. Geological Survey, the DOI Joint Fire Science Project, the Idaho Department of Lands, Boise State University, the University of Idaho, Oregon State University, the USDA Agricultural Research Service, and others are all working with the BLM in this significant endeavor.

The Public Lands Foundation is pleased to present the Soda Fire Partners with its 2017 Landscape Stewardship Certification of Appreciation and this Citation for invaluable contributions to the stewardship of America's public landscapes.

/s/ Jesse J. Juen
September 12, 2017



Left to Right: Cindy Fritz, BLM Emergency Stabilization & Rehabilitation; Peter Torma, BLM Soda Fire Project Manager; Brooke Jacobson, Idaho Department of Agriculture; Brandon Miller, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Michael Young, Idaho Fish & Game; Joshua Uriarte, Governor's Office of Species Conservation; Jason Pyron, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Anna Steele, PLF Idaho State Representative; John Fend, PLF Director-at-Large; Michelle Ryerson, BLM Owyhee Field Manager; Lance Okeson, BLM Fuels Program Coordinator; Aimee Betts, BLM Associate Boise District Manager; and, Lara Douglas, BLM Boise District Manager

**2017 LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP
CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION**

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Fremont County Weed and Pest

Nominated by Jeremie Artery, Natural Resource Specialist (Range/Weeds), Lander Field Office, Wyoming

The Public Lands Foundation presents Fremont County Weed and Pest (FCWP) with its 2017 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.

Fremont County Weed and Pest, which was nominated by the Wyoming BLM Lander Field Office, has been a partner with the BLM for over 25 years in treating invasive weeds on 2.4 million acres. These efforts are responsible for the successful implementation of the Resource Management Plan noxious weed program. Without fail, the FCWP has delivered high quality invasive plant management on BLM administered lands and has worked cooperatively with all local partners.

They have a strong and well thought out public education program. They have a comprehensive weed inventory and mapping effort. They employ an early detection and rapid response effort, using biological and

herbicide treatment. And they have an effective monitoring program. In short, they are the standard to which other local weed and pests control organizations compare themselves.

FCWP has established and maintained a good working relationship with all local and government cooperators. These include the Federal agencies, private land owners, grazing permittees, The Nature Conservancy, the Lander Cycle Club, the National Outdoor Leadership School, local conservation districts, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. They have empowered all these groups to work together on weed management by requesting cooperative projects and helping develop collaborative partnerships.

Notable is their work on a landscape level to manage cheat grass and the threat it and other weeds impose on prime sage grouse nesting areas. Other important efforts involve fire rehabilitation, gravel pit inspections, and control of weeds along trails and rights-of-ways.

Finally, they assist BLM in developing its invasive species inventory management system, and they have also helped other users of the public lands to be compliant with BLM regulations and stipulations.

The Public Lands Foundation is pleased to present Fremont County Weed and Pest with its 2017 Landscape Stewardship Certification of Appreciation and this Citation for invaluable contributions to the stewardship of America's public landscapes.

/s/ Jesse J. Juen, President
September 12, 2017



Left to Right: Lindy Linn of Congressman Liz Cheney's office, FCWP Assistant Supervisor Kim Johnson, FCWP Chairman Sollie Cadman, Fremont County Commissioner Jennifer McCarty, FCWP Assistant Supervisor Mike Wille, FCWP District Supervisor Aaron Foster, PLF Wyoming State Representative Bill LeBarron, FCWP Assistant Supervisor Paul Cohen, BLM Natural Resource Specialist Jeremie Artery, and BLM Assistant Field Manager Curtis Bryan.

PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

Notes from the PLF Secretary: The following three articles show the experience, expertise and dedication to relevant issues facing public lands by three PLF members. All three are examples of the knowledge that PLF members bring to the table in these discussions. This fall and winter have again been another busy quarter for advocacy issues. If you are interested in what is happening with National Monuments, changes to the Antiquities Act, changes to the Wilderness Act to allow mountain biking, or the trial and mistrial of the Bundy's, the best way to stay up on these issues is through the Remembering BLM Facebook page, the BLM Blog, or the PLF website. In addition, Secretary Zinke is still studying a reorganization proposal that may move BLM Headquarters to the "west." The best way to stay current is through our social media accounts (including the addition of Instagram as explained in this edition of the Monitor). Bill LeBarron and John Kwiatkowski explain every quarter their efforts at a grass roots level in Wyoming. A new approach is shown below, which is a summary of the Legislative Hearing on a bill to again streamline the APD approval processes. This approach creates a standard for the high level of expertise that the PLF membership can provide to the legislative process. Outstanding job! Who's next?

**Summary—Legislative Hearing
House Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
Onshore and Offshore Energy Bill.**

November 7, 2017

By Ray Brady

Ray Brady provided testimony on behalf of the Public Lands Foundation before the House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources on November 7, 2017 on an Onshore and Offshore Energy Bill pending before the Subcommittee. Title II of the proposed bill, referred to as the ONSHORE Act, would allow the States to take full responsibility for the permitting and regulation of oil and gas wells on federal lands and federal split-estate minerals. The bill would also exempt the permitting process on split-estate land from NEPA in those States that take over permitting responsibilities. The PLF had submitted a full written

testimony and a letter of comments to the Subcommittee prior to the hearing that were entered into the record. A summary testimony was presented at the hearing, and Ray Brady responded to several questions from Subcommittee members during the hearing.

The hearing was chaired by Congressman Gosar (R-AZ) and included other Majority members—Gohmert (R-TX), Lamborn (R-CO), Whittman (R-VA), Pearce (R-NM), Tipton (R-CO), and Graves (R-LA). Congressman Young (R-AK) and Thompson (R-LA) also participated in the hearing as non-Subcommittee members. Ranking Member Lowenthal (D-CA) and Congressman Soto (D-FL) represented the Minority members of the Subcommittee.

The witnesses for the Majority included David Holt (President, Consumer Energy Alliance, TX), Eric Smith (Professor, Tulane Energy Institute, LA), and Lynn Helms (Director, North Dakota Industrial Commission, ND) who provided testimony in support of the bill. Ray Brady, representing the Public Lands Foundation, was the invited witness for the Minority members of the Subcommittee and provided comments that expressed concerns with the bill.

Much of the hearing was focused on the Offshore provisions of the bill. However, supporters of Title II of the bill (ONSHORE Act) argued that the States have the capacity and ability to process oil and gas drilling permits significantly faster than the BLM while ensuring environmental and other protections. The BLM's failure to process drilling permits in a timely manner was perceived to cause a loss of critical revenue to the States. There was little acknowledgement that the BLM has a multiple-use mandate and that the State's ability to process permits more quickly was due to the States' approval of only downhole operations. Few States have requirements for approval of a surface use plan of operations or any requirements for NEPA reviews. Most of the Majority members and witnesses indicated that energy development generates economic activity, uncertainty in the energy arena discourages investment, and that State and Federal regulations are duplicative, so eliminate the Federal. All witnesses, except for the Public Lands Foundation, supported the bill. Ray Brady fielded questions from Congressman Lowenthal.

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

Congressman Lowenthal (CA) expressed concerns that the ONSHORE bill waives NEPA for Surface Use Plans of Operations on split-estate lands, including roads, size/location of drill pad, waste pads, etc. The States don't require biological reviews, wildlife reviews, Endangered Species Act compliance, waste management plans, reclamation or surface management plans or public comment (citing Testimony provided by Lynn Helms from North Dakota). Lynn Helms from North Dakota also indicated that the State processes permits in less than 20 days compared to 9 months for the BLM. Lynn Helms also indicated that cooperative efforts to streamline the inspection and enforcement program with the BLM in North Dakota under the existing 43 CFR 3190 regulations have not worked. Congressman Pearce (NM) indicated that industry prefers to operate on state and private lands because they can develop them more rapidly and that the State can process permits in 10 days compared to more than 200 days for BLM APDs. This is perceived to represent a huge loss of revenue for New Mexico. Congressman Young (AK) also indicated the State is superior to the BLM in its environmental requirements and standards. Congressman Gohmert (TX) indicated the States have the regulatory mechanisms in place to approve permits.

In response to a question about permit approval, Ray Brady replied that the downhole review of an APD may take about 20 percent of the processing time of a permit, while surface use activities and appropriate environmental reviews and public comment may take about 80 percent of the processing time. Comparing the processing times for State downhole operations and BLM approvals of complete APDs is like comparing apples and oranges. Ray also emphasized the importance of consulting surface landowners in split-estate situations to protect the interests of the surface owner and the surface resources that are of value and to avoid litigation.

Congressman Lowenthal (CA) also indicated that **industry already has approximately 8,000 approved APDs that are not being used and that onshore oil and gas production actually increased by 78 percent under the previous Obama administration.** In response to questions, Ray Brady indicated that industry may

not have prioritized APD applications in the past, which could have contributed to the large number of approved APDs that are not being used. Some of the current backlog of pending APDs may also be the result of industry submitting as many APDs as possible, thus contributing to the BLM workload. The BLM is currently taking aggressive actions to reduce the pending APD backlog, working with industry to identify priority applications, reducing APD review and approval timeframes, and streamlining NEPA procedures.

It was important that the Public Lands Foundation was provided an opportunity to participate in this Hearing and provide perspectives on the ONSHORE Act. We believe we can offer an objective view of what is currently happening on the public lands and remain strong advocates for keeping public lands in public hands. The Subcommittee was appreciative of our participation, and it is hoped that the Public Lands Foundation will be asked to provide input and advice on future legislative efforts regarding the public lands.

**Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board Meeting
Grand Junction, Colorado, October 17– 19, 2017****By Tom Allen**

The following report was submitted by Tom Allen, member of the Public Lands Foundation Board of Directors and PLF Wild Horse and Burros (WHBs) representative.

October 17th was devoted to a field trip to the Little Bookcliffs Wild Horse Range. Horses were observed and fertility control by darting was described. The Little Bookcliffs Range has a relatively low acreage and low Appropriate Management Level (AML) and could be managed by the fertility control drug PZP by darting that is not practical on large Herd Management Areas (HMAs) with thousands of excess horses.

The regular meeting included updates by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Forest Service (FS) on the status of the WHBs programs in each agency. In round numbers for BLM-managed public lands, 27,000 WHBs is the AML; 73,000 WHBs exist on public lands

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PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES*(Continued from Page 7.)*

as of March 1, 2017, (not including 10,000+ animals born in 2017); 45,000 additional WHBs are being held in off-range facilities (a combination of corrals, pastures, and sanctuaries). There is a \$1 billion obligation associated with holding these WHBs for their natural lives.

The Board expressed deep displeasure that there was no response from the BLM to the recommendations from the Advisory Board's September 2016 meeting. (BLM did not have a response due to the change in administration and the time lag in getting new people in place.) Members expressed considerable difficulty in calling for lethal solutions to the excess numbers on the range and the \$1 billion cost of holding horses off-range.

Scientific study presentations were made regarding "Influence of Feral Horses on Native Wildlife in the Great Basin" and "Effects of Feral Horses on Soils & Vegetation in Sagebrush and Riparian Plant Communities." Both studies showed that wild horses were having significant adverse effects on, in the first case, wildlife and its ability to use water sources; and, in the second case, soil compaction and hardening of the surface and an increase in perennial grass and sagebrush cover where horses were excluded.

A report was given on "Currently Available Contraceptives and Sterilization Techniques for Wild Horses & Burros." There is no proven long-term fertility control drug available. PZP and PZP22 can be effective; however, the requirement for recurring applications limits its effectiveness due, in part, to the difficulty of recapturing horses on a regular basis.

The agenda provided two hours for public comment. Due to the number of people signed up to comment (approximately 45), individuals were permitted only two minutes each. Complete statements were allowed to be provided to the Board.

The PLF's oral comments focused on giving a perspective to WHBs numbers, the impracticality of PZP as an effective fertility control drug and the need for the sale without limitation of excess horses both on and

off the range. In pertinent part, the PLF statement included the following: "...there will be somewhere near 150,000 WHBs on the range in 2022 under current management policy.

To give this number of horses perspective without taking into consideration that horses use as much as 1.4 times as much forage as cattle, consider the following: The excess WHB numbers are about equal to putting an additional 500 ranching enterprises on public land with each one running 500 head of cattle half of the year on public land.

The fertility control drug PZP is ineffective for managing most populations because: 1) it is effective for only one year; 2) it gets increasingly difficult to gather horses in subsequent years, especially where trees are available for cover; 3) it is difficult to keep track of previously treated horses; and, 4) even if numbers were at AML there is not and will not be the budget and capability to capture and treat the required number of reproducing mares, to say nothing of numbers that would have to be captured and treated at current population levels.

A population reduction and control policy and program based on darting, water and feed trapping and use of PZP will fail. The instances where these methods can be used are few and are not representative of the vast majority of Herd Management Areas (HMAs) and horse populations.

Unrestricted sale of held horses and those that should be gathered to reach AML is essential. It may be reasonable to expect that a long-term fertility control drug can be developed during the time warehoused horses are sold and AML is achieved. An effective fertility control program coupled with an enhanced adoption program will be the key elements to an effective WHB management program."

Excellent presentations were made regarding collaborative partnerships in Colorado. These included darting applications of PZP, the Great Escape Mustang Sanctuary (GEMS) and training center, and the Sand

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PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

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Wash Advocate Team (SWAT), an on-range project of GEMS.

A presentation was made sharing the responses to a variety of questions posed to attendees of the Wild Horse Summit held in Salt Lake City this past summer. The presenter made it clear that the information could not stand the rigors of a proper survey due to the selectiveness of the “by invite only” attendance, thus the responses are not discussed here.

BLM Wyoming State Director, Mary Jo Rugwell, made a presentation that will be used in support of the BLM report that is due to Congress in November 2017. The presentation, “What are the Key Elements of a Sustainable Wild Horse & Burro Program?” highlighted nine elements that were the basis of discussion and motions by the Board. These included: How can the BLM: (1) achieve AML within all HMAs in 5-10 years, (2) sustainably maintain AML within all HMAs, (3) reduce and control holding costs for excess animals, (4) significantly increase annual adoptions and sales of WHBs, (5) continue to ensure humane treatment of WHBs, (6) use best available science to improve management for horses and burros, (7) better provide information to the public, (8) increase public participation and financial support in the management of WHBs on and off the range; and (9) What humanitarian assistance opportunities exist for WHBs?

There were six Board members in attendance and one attendee by phone. Board members, in a facilitated session, gave their thoughts in response to each of the elements. Discussion followed and a series of motions/recommendations were made as described below.

1. The WH&B National Advisory Board have their next meeting in Washington, D.C. and present their most recent recommendations, including those presented in September 2016, to agency officials. Tentatively to be scheduled early in the calendar year, but before the middle of March 2018. Passed with 6 Ayes. Note: This recommendation reflected the Board’s disappointment in BLM’s failure to respond to the September recommendations and a desire to be accessible to Department officials as well as Congress.

2. Phase out long-term holding over the next 3 years and apply that budget to on-range management options. Motion carried 6-1.

3. Create funding mechanisms to maximize adoptions and or sales, especially through successful programs and to include international adoptions and sales. Motion carried 6-1.

4. Increase WH&B funding for reversible fertility control by \$3M in FY 2019. Motion carried 6-1. Note: The dissenting vote was from Dr. Julie Weikel, veterinarian, who earlier in the meeting discussed and supported successful on-range sterilization (irreversible) of horses on the Sheldon Antelope Range with only a 1-2% mortality rate.

5. BLM will immediately (within the next 3 years) follow the WH&B Act and remove excess animals from the range to achieve AML. Further, BLM will use the help and assistance of all state and local agencies, organizations and individuals in achieving AML. Motion carried 6-1.

6. Maintain AML by using fertility control to slow population growth at levels where removals equal the adoption demand. Motion carried 6-1.

7. Adjust AML where appropriate. Motion carried 7-0.

NOTE: A great deal of information about WHBs is available by going to blm.gov and clicking on the link to “Wild Horse and Burro.”

Western Regional Strategy Committee National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy By Bill Lamb

At the annual PLF meeting in Salt Lake City in September, Dayne Barron and Brad Washa with the Western Regional Strategy Committee (WRSC) gave a presentation on the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and suggested that PLF become a member of the western committee. After some discussion about the benefits of PLF being a member of

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PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

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the WRSC, Bill Lamb was selected to represent PLF. The WRSC has a face to face meeting twice a year and a conference call once a month. Bill attended the two-day face to face meeting that was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico in November.

The mission of the committee is: "To promote and facilitate resilient landscapes, fire adapted communities and a safe, effective, risk-based wildland fire response across the geographic and political boundaries of the western landscape using a network approach."

As a result of the challenges of fire management that are growing more complex each year, the Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act of 2009 (the FLAME Act) was signed by the President in November 2009. The Act states, in part, "Not later than one year after the date of the enactment, the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to Congress a report that contains a cohesive wildfire management strategy." The FLAME Act directs that a cohesive strategy be developed addressing seven specific topic areas ranging from how best to allocate fire budgets at the Federal level to assessing risk to communities, and prioritizing hazardous fuels project funds. The FLAME Act is the catalyst for bringing fire leadership at all levels together and prompting a new approach to how wildland fire is managed. This new approach will guide the development of a national cohesive strategy that paves the way for developing a national wildland fire management policy.

After the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service reviewed the congressional direction, it was not until April of 2014 that the management strategy was completed. The strategy has three goals: 1) Restore and maintain landscapes, 2) Fire-adapted communities, and 3) Safe, Effective, Risk-Based Wildland Fire Response. Implementation requires understanding the differences that exist across the Nation and the tensions among partners and stakeholders. The National Strategy recognizes significant variation in land ownership and land use objectives. By understanding that variation and differences exist, the National Strategy becomes a platform for partners and stakeholders to embrace different roles and responsibilities to promote cohesive and efficient fire management across all jurisdictions.

To coordinate the regional assessments, the [Wildland Fire Executive Council \(WFEC\)](#) chartered three Regional Strategy Committees (RSC) for each region delineated in the Cohesive Strategy.

- [Northeast Regional Strategy Committee](#)
- [Wildland Fire in the South \(Southeast Regional Strategy Committee\)](#)
- [Wildfire in the West \(West Regional Strategy Committee\)](#)

The Western Committee includes the 15 western states in addition to Alaska and Hawaii. The committees are to ensure that the Cohesive Strategy Plan is implemented. Since wildfires will always occur and there will be a need for firefighting capability, an effort must be made to find a means to deal with the ever-present wildfires by reducing suppression costs and eliminating destruction. The CS seems to be the most effective way to make this happen. It will not happen overnight since there will be a need to change the wildfire management culture and the public's perception of managing the fuels capable of carrying fire.

After attending the committee meeting in Albuquerque last month, I think there is much that PLF can do to move the strategy along by providing our expertise based on our experiences in fire. The committee members went out of their way to greet me as a new member of the group representing PLF.

Strategic Planning Initiative **By George Stone**

The Board of Directors explicitly seeks your input! We need your thoughts and ideas about the overall makeup of our organization, our priorities, resource needs (financial and volunteer) and initiatives you want the PLF to pursue. Here are just some of the issues that the strategic planning initiative will work to address.

The PLF has limited resources in both funds and volunteers. The current workload for many board and committee volunteers is exceeding their capacity to dedicate adequate time. After all, we want to enjoy our retirement, too! PLF needs more volunteers and needs

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PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

(Continued from Page 10.)

a broader membership base to tap volunteers from to help take on the workload. Moreover, PLF would greatly benefit from having more newly-retired BLMers. PLF's workload is increasing, particularly in the areas of advocacy, issues management, and the multitude of administrative and behind-the-scenes tasks. How can the board best plan to meet our current and future needs?

A related issue is the size of our paid membership and our ability to attract new members from the pool of the newly-retired. PLF's paid membership has declined by 30 members over the last five years from 498 as of September 1, 2011 to 468 as of September 1, 2017. Past efforts to maintain or increase PLF membership have not yielded desired results. This is mainly due to Privacy Act restrictions which impact the PLF's ability to learn about new BLM retirees so we can offer our complimentary one-year membership and hopefully retain them as regular members. How do you feel about the size of our organization's membership? Should the PLF continue attempts to grow our organization, or are we satisfied with the status quo?

The necessity to expand fundraising has become a priority for the PLF. The PLF's Biennial Student Congress program (\$40,000), the annual awarding of two George Lea Founder's Scholarships (\$5,000 each), funding for our annual meetings, printing of the *Monitor*, National Public Lands Day support and maintenance of our website, to name a few, are all areas which require financial resources in addition to substantial volunteer time. How can the PLF best be prepared in the future to meet these and other financial needs? What fundraising strategies do other similar organizations use? What ideas do you have to offer? These are some of the questions that the strategic planning effort needs to tackle.

We welcome your ideas and really do want to hear from you! To make it easy, we have set up an email address at strategicplan@publicland.org where you can contact us and share your thoughts and ideas as we prepare for the 2018 board meeting discussion.

In addition, depending on how our pre-planning develops, we may seek to conduct one or more membership surveys. Please ensure that we have your current email address on file. You may notify us by emailing us at info@publicland.org.

BLM-PLF QUARTERLY CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY

December 18, 2017 - 10 a.m. ET

Note: Many in PLF have asked what is going on with the new administration. The news is filled with much, both if you like what's going on, or you don't. At this writing, there is no nomination for a new BLM Director, but there are still rumors. Changes are being made at the WO level and in the west. Here is the latest, as identified through the exceptional note taking skills of George Stone.

Participants in the Call:

BLM: Brian Steed, Acting Director; Mike Nedd, Acting Deputy Director – Operations
PLF: Tom Allen, Dean Bibles, Henri Bisson, Mackenzie Case, Mike Ferguson, Jesse Juen, John Kwiatkowski, George Lea, Bill Lamb, Bill LeBarron, Van Manning, Beau McClure, Ed Shepard, Don Simpson, George Stone, Rich Whitley, Maggie Wyatt, Elaine Zielinski

Jesse Juen and Mike Nedd led the call in the beginning with Brian Steed joining the call later. Issues discussed follow.

Overview of PLF: Provided by Jesse for Acting Director Brian Steed, highlighting three PLF-BLM projects:

- *Student Congress* – Mike Ferguson. Provided theme for the Congress which is the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the National Trails Act, and the schedule/location (Baker City, Oregon from August 22-25, 2018.). About 25 students typically participate.
- *Scholarships* – George Lea & Mike Ferguson. Seven scholarships awarded to students in six states. PLF's 2018 annual meeting to be held in Montana. Schools in Montana and surrounding states will be targeted for scholarship application recruitments.
- *The Past and Future Project* – Elaine Zielinski. Noted that Pathways will not be held in February.

Status of Political and SES Vacancies: No formal announcement for the BLM Director nominee yet. Most likely to occur in January. Five State Director and three Assistant Director vacancies are in various stages of being announced. AK and NM announced and close 12/

(Continued on Page 12.)

BLM-PLF QUARTERLY CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY**December 18, 2017 - 10 a.m. ET***(Continued from Page 11.)*

20/17. CO, ID and MT to be announced. ADs for Fire, Communications, Business & Fiscal Resources to be announced.

Reorganization/Relocation: Mike Nedd didn't have much new information. He noted the recent House hearing on reorganization of DOI and indicated the Secretary is looking at various options to bring agencies together on a regional basis, beginning with DOI agencies and possibly broadening to include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Forest Service. There has not been much outreach on reorganization. Nothing formal has been handed down to BLM leadership on relocation of the Washington Office to the West, but the FY 2019 budget request may have something on this topic. Elaine stated that PLF would like to have some input on these matters, if possible. Dean urged Interior to hold public sessions especially in the West prior to making decisions on reorganization of agencies as we got beat up in the public meetings during the Reagan years on the BLM/USFS project which most believed the public wanted. BLM's response was they have social networking now and know more about what the public wants now so past experience has little validity today.

BLM Foundation: Acting Director Steed stated that while he is supportive, there are some in the Administration who are less enthused to having the Foundation due to funding streams. Brian suggested Wild Horses and Burros as an example where possible Foundation project funding could be directed.

Status of BLM History Book: Acting Director Steed is reading it.

Outcome-Based Grazing: BLM has some 20 possible projects in AZ, ID, NV, UT and WY that are under review by a team. A BLM leadership briefing is to be held in January. PLF informed BLM that it has a Grazing Committee available to assist. Brian is interested in any guidance PLF can provide. **Wildfire:** Brian mentioned a joint meeting involving the Secretary and the Forest Service where high-level discussions transpired on budget matters. General themes involved spending more smartly on fuels reduction and identifying a budget stream to fight fires when they occur.

Wild Horses & Burros: Jesse pointed out that PLF is supportive of moving animals off-range. Brian stated that the status of disposing of animals is uncertain between the House (limited changes) and Senate (all riders remain in effect) appropriations bills. Secretary Zinke has told BLM to be as aggressive as possible to reduce the WH&B population, but there is some resistance from animal advocates with ties to the White House. There is an options paper being prepared for the Secretary and Congress on this topic. Brian indicated that Congress is more aware of the WH&B problem than ever before and there is recognition that the issue boils down to horses versus the western environment. There are real tradeoffs. It is much too costly to continue to feed and house animals. WH&B programs are taking 6% of BLM's annual budget. Brian would like to have a separate call on WH&B with PLF representatives Ed and Tom, and possibly with the Coalition being included. Mike Nedd will work from his end to set up a call in January. Ed reaffirmed it would be beneficial to have the call before PLF submits testimony on BLM's FY 2019 budget request.

Field Operations – Level of Review/Approvals: Henri Bisson raised field concerns about the extent of review and approvals currently needed on matters such as Federal Register notices. Delays are impacting both morale and the implementation of the Administration's agenda. Acting Director Steed is aware of the issue. The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management has issued policy effective 1/1/18 that limits Washington review/approval to three days for Federal Register notices. Hopefully, things will begin to move faster.

National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska. Henri inquired about the status of the USGS's updated NPR-A assessment and whether current BLM management plans would be reviewed/revised. Acting Director Steed indicated that this topic is up in the air pending Congressional decisions on opening up ANWR for drilling.

PLF Annual Meeting: Jesse informed BLM that our 2018 annual meeting will be held in Montana and extended an invitation for BLM leadership to attend and participate.

Quarterly BLM-PLF Conference Calls: Acting Director Steed would like to continue the calls.

SOCIAL MEDIA: MOVING PLF INTO THE FUTURE

Website and Social Media Improvements
By George Stone

We're Blogging!

Did you know that the PLF has a blog on its website? Well, we do! You can read it here: <https://publicland.org/blog/>. During his term as PLF President, Jesse Juen learned from many of our partner organizations that they are making more use of posting blogs on topics of interest (coupled with social media tools such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) and less use of traditional communications tools such as sending "Letters to the Editor."

Jesse initiated a blog experiment using the topic of DOI/BLM Reorganization. He did two things. First, he authored an initial blog titled "Reorganization the Last Resort." Then, through an e-blast to PLF members, he encouraged others to chime in on the topic. As Jesse stated, "Our goal is to demonstrate to this Administration and the public that PLF can help with our expertise and experience to avoid costly and wasteful energy on such efforts while keeping BLM focused on their day to day job." He received multiple responses from PLF members who shared their experiences and perspectives on past reorganizations that they encountered during their careers along with ideas for the current Administration to consider. PLF received and posted to its blog contributions from Vice-President Don Simpson, Mike Ford, Tom Roberts, Scott Florence, Rob Robinson, Bob Moore, Gary Marsh, Ray Brady, Mike Ferguson and Rich Whitley. In addition, Jesse posted another blog concerning possible legislative changes to the Wilderness Act. His blog was picked up and mentioned in a *Los Angeles Times* article!

PLF Joins Instagram!



The PLF has expanded its presence on social media by joining Instagram. Instagram is a free photo and video

sharing app available on Apple iOS, Android and Windows Phone. People can upload photos or videos to Instagram and share them with their followers or with a select group of friends. They can also view, comment and like posts shared by their friends on Instagram. PLF joined Instagram to broaden its communications efforts to reach out to younger audiences. 59% of internet users between the ages of 18 and 29 use Instagram and 33% of internet users between the ages of 30 and 49 use Instagram, according to marketing experts. Unlike our public Facebook and Twitter pages, PLF's Instagram page is content-focused on images. PLF has posted images from the 2017 Annual Meeting and field trip. Use this link to view PLF's Instagram page: <https://www.instagram.com/publiclands>. Help PLF populate its page by sharing YOUR photos of the public lands! Send them to instagram@publicland.org. To create an Instagram account, see: <https://help.instagram.com/155940534568753>.

2017 Annual Report

The PLF's Annual Report for 2017 is now available on our website for viewing and downloading at: <https://publicland.org/news/annual-report/>.

Note: Every PLF member needs to read the 2017 Annual Report that George Stone has set up on the PLF website. This report succinctly identifies what PLF did in 2017 and what PLF hopes to do in 2018. It's an excellent record, and a roadmap for our future all in one place. Thanks to George Stone and Dwight Hempel for their effort.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Bill Lamb, Utah

Terry Graham, former SD Secretary in Utah, was in a head on vehicle collision in the morning of December 14 in Layton, Utah. After numerous surgeries, Terry is on a long road of recovery in a rehab center in Salt Lake. For current information about Terry's condition and journey, Terry's family has set up a Facebook Page called: Terry Graham—Accident, Surgery, Recovery Page. We wish her a sustained and speedy recovery. Terry was a key planner and worker for the PLF annual meeting this year in Salt Lake City.

IN MEMORIUM

Note: *Putting together this list in the Monitor and maintaining the Memorial Wall on the website and updates in the Remembering BLM Facebook page takes a lot of work by a dedicated group of PLF volunteers, led by Bob Conquergood. Bob is always finding names that have not been previously added to the Memorial Wall. When he finds them through the magic of Google, they are added to this list. If you find errors, or if you know of something we may have missed, we apologize, and will correct the record. If you have concerns, please let Geoff Middaugh know at gmiddaugh@publicland.org.*

Linda Ellen Alumbough worked for BLM in Boise, Idaho (NIFC) as a Human Resources Assistant; on November 22, 2017, in Boise, Idaho.

Don Armentrout worked as a Wildlife Biologist, Elko RA and Gerlach Sonoma RA, NV, CDD, Riverside, CA, Wildlife Management Biologist/Ecologist, Eagle Lake Field Office. In Susanville, CA.; in Lassen County, CA, on August 3, 2017.

Judith Bodenberger worked for BLM in Denver, CO from 1988-2000; in Veneta, OR on October 8, 2017.

Irvin Brunner worked on Road Maintenance, Medford DO; in Medford, Oregon; on June 10, 2017.

Lynda Regina (Gina) Byrd worked as a Human Resource Specialist and Administrative Officer in New Mexico; on November 22, 2017, in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

James “Stony” Carter worked as a Land Surveyor, ORSO, Portland, OR, 1989-2001; on September 30, 2017, in Great Falls, MT.

Clark Collins worked as an Information Technologist, Washington Office; on October 20, 2017, in Baltimore, Maryland.

Lawrance “Larry” Jay Duffy worked as a Warehouse Manager, Fairbanks DO, AK; on October 12, 2017, in Wenatchee, WA.

Robert Dusenbury worked in Cedar City DO, UT, and managed Utah’s first Grazing EIS; on September 30, 2017, in Anacortes, WA.

John (Steve) Grantland worked as an Electronics Tech-

nician in the AKSO, in Anchorage, AK (~20 years before retiring from BLM); on November 11, 2017, in Foley, Alabama.

Richard (Rick) R Harrison Jr. retired as Director of Personnel, BLM, WO in 1994 (at least 14 years in that job); on November 23, 2017, in Silver Spring Maryland.

Mary Johnson. Mary was a long time BLM employee and was the very first O & C Roads & Right-of-Way Specialist for the BLM starting in 1980. She was integral to the development of the O & C Handbook as we know it today. She then became one of the most seasoned Realty Specialists on the Medford and Roseburg Districts. After Mary retired, the Medford BLM hired her back under contract to work on LWCF acquisitions for Table Rocks and the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument; on December 6, 2017, in Medford, OR.

Dr. Monte Neil Kirven worked as a Wildlife Biologist and specialized in Peregrine Falcons, for the Ukiah DO, CA, in the 1980s. Dr. Kirven was killed in the wildland fire (Tubbs Fire) near Santa Rosa, CA, on October 9, 2017.

Larry Kmoch worked in CO and WY, and was the Assistant DM for Operations Rawlins DO; on November 26, 2017, in Rawlins, WY.

Boyd Owens worked in Cadastral Survey in the Arizona State Office; on November 5, 2017, in Panguitch, Utah.

Pearl Kathryn “Kay” Phippen worked for BLM in Idaho, and retired in the 1980s; on October 10, 2017, in Meridian, Idaho.

William LaVon Price worked as EEO Officer UTSO; on November 15, 2017, in Salt Lake City, UT.

Frank Reed worked as a BLM Welder at the Amarillo Helium Plant; on November 20, 2017, in Amarillo, TX.

Terry A Richards worked in the Medford DO, on August 28, 2017, in Medford, OR.

Robert “Bob” Rinehart worked as a Realty Specialist, Anchorage, DO; on October 20, 2017, in Anchorage, AK.

William Ray Robinson worked at and retired from the Sprague Seed Orchard, Medford DO; on September 17, 2017, in Medford, OR.

(Continued on Page 15.)

IN MEMORIUM

(Continued from Page 14)

Harold “Harry” Sieverding worked as a Natural Resource Manager, New Orleans OCS, LA; on October 13, 2017, in Madisonville, LA.

Ted Stephenson. Ted started as a Realty Specialist in Rawlins, WY, worked in Alaska SO, WO (Alaska Staff), then Utah SO where he was Chief of Lands and Minerals and finally Special Assistant to the State Director, and retired in February, 2004 with a total of 33 years Federal Service; on November 16, 2017, in Salt Lake City, UT.

Kathryn B. White worked as a Budget Analyst in the New Mexico State Office and then as the BLM Budget Officer in Washington, DC until 1989; on December 17, 2017, in Ocala, Florida.

John Stephenson
Sharon Wilson

Pieter Van Zanden
Al Wright

Student Congress

John Case
Cynthia Dyer
Beau McClure
Vincent Ogurek
Pieter Van Zanden

James Caswell
Eric Janes
Bob Moore
John Schumaker
Clark Whitehead

Youth Initiatives

Scott Florence
Alan Sands
Connie Stone

Van Manning
Don Simpson

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Family

Karl & Sharon Kipping

SPECIAL DUES PAYMENTS

Sustaining Members

Phil Allard
Marv LeNoue
Skip Renschler/Terry Keim

Kathy Eaton
Robert Towne

Contributing Members

Association of O & C Counties
Mel Berg
Sonya Cox
Wayne Gardner
Ann Hutchinson
Tom Owen
Don Simpson
Don Whyde

Lee Carie
Scott Florence
Michael Holbert
Tim O'Brien
Audrey Sawicki
Clark Whitehead
Martin Zimmer

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Received From:

Carolyn Droscher
Ed Haste
Linda Hofman

In Memory of:

Lynn Rust
Fred Wolf
Jennie Senzel & Bob Jones
Floyd Kinsinger
Judy Nelson
Kelly Johnson
Fred Wolf
Irving & Jennie Senzel

Eric Janes
Eric Janes
Becky Johnson
John Kwiatkowski
Louise Senzel

CONTRIBUTIONS

General Fund

John Case
Tom Loomis
Tim O'Brien
Beverly Richardson
Gregg & Mary Simmons (2)
Rosemary Thomas

Glen Collins
Beau McClure
Rebecca Pogue
William Stanley
George Stone

Scholarship Fund

Henri Bisson
Pete Culp
Cynthia Dyer
Linda Hofman
Eric Janes
David Jones
Marv LeNoue
Keith Miller
Gregg & Mary Simmons (2)

John Case
Steve Dondero
Dwight Hempel
Jeff Holdren
Curt Jones
George Lea
Beau McClure
James Monroe
Smokey O'Connor

Comments from your PLF Secretary

This edition of the Winter 2018 describes our transition in leadership and summarizes our expanded approach to advocacy, emphasizing our experience and technical expertise on public lands issues. We live in a period of rapid social change, and this Monitor can't keep our membership up to speed on this change. We are transitioning a lot of information to our social media efforts (Thank you George Stone and Bob Conquergood). The Monitor is what we make it. It is important to hear from our membership, and if you like something or don't like something, let us know. If you send me an email, don't be surprised if it winds up as a letter to the editor. If you want changes, or new directions, please let us know.

Geoff Middaugh (gmiddaugh@publicland.org)

Public Lands Foundation

P.O. Box 7226 Arlington, VA 22207

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Phone _____
Email _____
Date _____

Public Lands Foundation Goals

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

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