



For America's Heritage

THE PUBLIC LANDS Monitor

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PLF's 2018 ANNUAL MEETING BILLINGS, MONTANA September 11-14, 2018

The next PLF Annual Meeting will be held at the Big Horn Resort in Billings, Montana, September 11-14, 2018. The theme for the meeting will be "Access to Public Land"; this includes easement acquisition, land acquisition, exchanges, legal access, and physical access.

Members of the Board of Directors and others interested in attending the Board meeting on Tuesday, September 11, should plan on arriving in Billings on Monday, September 10, as the Board meeting will start first thing on Tuesday morning.

On Wednesday, September 12, the BLM Billings Field Office will lead a tour that will highlight some of the access issues in the Billings area and illustrate access issues in general. The tour will include lunch at Pompey's Pillar National Monument. In the evening, there will be a BBQ dinner with cash bar selling wine and beer that will be held outdoors at the Big Horn Resort.

Thursday, September 13, will be the general meeting. Several speakers will address issues associated with the theme of access. The PLF banquet and silent auction will be held in the evening. The Board of Directors will meet again on Friday morn-

ing, September 14, before adjourning by noon.

The Big Horn Resort is located at 1801 Majestic Lane, in Billings (zip code 59102). A block of nonsmoking rooms has been set aside at a rate of \$99 (plus tax) for a King Bed or two Queen Beds. You must make your own reservations by calling (406) 839-9300 or (877) 995-8999 no later than August 18, 2018. Please mention the Public Lands Foundation in order to receive the discounted rate. If you need to cancel your reservations, it must be done by 4:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Savings Time the day prior to arrival to avoid a cancellation penalty.

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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

Where does the time go? It seems like only a few days ago that we were taking down the Christmas tree and putting away the decorations. Now, it is already spring (at least here in the Northwest) and it is time to think about getting ready for summer. There is so much going on in the public lands arena that it makes my

head spin, and finding time to keep up with everything is not easy. I'm thankful that PLF has many on the board that are stepping up to help, and that help has led to a special opinion piece in this quarter's newsletter. Included in this edition of the "Monitor" is an interview with the Honorable Sally Jewell, who was Secretary of the Interior during the second term of the Obama Administration. Through the efforts of Ray Brady, who contacted Neal Kornze, who contacted Sally Jewell, she was able to meet up with Geoff Middaugh and have a conversation in Bellingham, Washington, in early February 2018. It's an interesting interview from a PLF perspective because Geoff was able to ask her about the future of public lands, the proposed reorganization of the BLM and moving the national headquarters west, the Student Congress of the PLF, and our strategic plan. She also comments on what can make the PLF relevant in this day and age of conflict about keeping our public lands in public hands. Of course, she has strong political opinions about what is going on today, and the PLF membership should find it worthwhile to read. Read it all before you formulate an opinion.

BLM exists and its employees must function within the heated political debate today, and it isn't easy. There have always been buffers, through the Hatch Act, and through leadership that tries to keep the day to day politics from impacting local field offices. But it is hard! As Secretary Jewell recommends, it might be time for the PLF membership to make a call to a local BLM office and just find out how things are going. We might be surprised because Washington, D.C. and all the craziness that goes on there, sometimes seems a long way off from Coos Bay, Oregon, Miles City, Montana, or Socorro, New Mexico. Yet again, the pressures of the overheated political debate may be spilling over more than ever before in the workplace as unrequested transfers, retirements and resignations are increasing.

The pressure on the employees to be able to complete work only grows because the hiring freeze continues and many of the vacated positions remain unfilled.

The Bundy saga continues and some of the Bundy followers that plead guilty are beginning to receive their sentences. Chris Brong, who retired after a long career in law enforcement with BLM, FWS, Forest Service, and the Corps of Engineers, only to reenter the fray as a Skamania County, Washington county commissioner has written an article for this edition offering his insight on the Bundy story that continues to unravel. Thank you, Chris, for sharing your thoughts on the continuing story. Expect to hear a lot more from the Bundys now that Ryan Bundy has announced his candidacy for Nevada governor.

I recently attended the Board meeting of the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR). We agreed previously to try to have a representative at each other's board meeting when possible. Former BLM Director Jim Caswell chairs NAFSR, and there are other members of NAFSR that also worked for the BLM in the past. Our two organizations have a lot in common, and we agreed to look for more opportunities to work together. One possible area in which we could work more closely is on the student congress.

As I write this, it is March and budget season. Like so many years, the agencies are still waiting to know what they will really have to spend this fiscal year while wondering what the next budget will bring. The President's budget for 2019 is on the Hill and debate is beginning. Overall, the President's proposals don't look good for BLM with major cuts; some programs fair well while others will be really hurt. We will be tracking the progress as the appropriations process plays out and will provide our input. We will also be tracking several major issues and will continue to advocate for the public lands and the employees whenever, wherever, and however we can.

One final request for this *Spring Monitor* from your president: PLF continues our work on a strategic plan, and we need your thoughts and input. If you have ideas, opinions, concerns, or whatever, we want to hear from you. Please jot your thoughts down and get them to me, Beau McClure, George Stone, or any member of the board. We need to hear from the membership, and this means you!

PLF's 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

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Check-in time is 3:00 p.m. and check-out time is 11:00 a.m. The Big Horn Resort has complimentary parking and a hot breakfast buffet. It also has a fitness center. There is no restaurant at the hotel, but both The Montana Club and Montana's Rib & Chop House are adjacent to the hotel and serve lunch and dinner. (The Montana Club also serves breakfast if you don't want to partake of the hotel's free breakfast.) For more information about the Big Horn Resort, visit www.thebighornresort.com.

Rental cars are available at Billings Logan International Airport (BIL). The Big Horn Resort also offers a shuttle from the airport to the hotel for guests; it operates from 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Please call the hotel directly in advance to schedule the shuttle. The Reef Indoor Water Park is located at the resort. There is a separate admission fee to use the park, but guests receive a discount. For additional information, visit www.thereefindoors.com. The resort is near ZooMontana, if people want to visit it.

Meeting, registration, and additional information will be provided in the summer edition of *The Monitor*. If you have any questions, please contact Beau McClure by email at vpops@publicland.org, or by phone at (623) 587-7883.

2018 - FOURTH BIENNIAL STUDENT CONGRESS ON PUBLIC POLICY FOR LAND MANAGEMENT

The Public Lands Foundation is working with the BLM in Oregon and the BLM national office to sponsor the Fourth Biennial Student Congress on Public Land Management.

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the National Trails Act, the **Fourth Student Congress will be held in Baker City, Oregon, from August 22-25, 2018.**

Approximately 25 college students and recent graduates will be selected from a nation-wide competition. The application period ended on March 15.

More than 60 applications were submitted from 35 colleges and universities representing 17 states and Ottawa, Canada. Selected students will be notified by the first week in May.

The students will explore aspects of Wild and Scenic Rivers and National Trails including:

1. Designation criteria in the context of multiple use – discussion of how other uses affect designation and how designation affects future use;
2. Quantitative and Qualitative values of public lands – use of existing designations as a tool to raise public awareness of the values of public lands – including economic values, value to the local community, youth engagement opportunities, recreation opportunities, etc.;
3. Keeping history alive – engaging people in understanding the history of the United States using designated areas related to history (e.g. The Oregon Trail); and
4. Public involvement – discussion of how to balance the relative value and weight given to local vs. national input to local decisions. How do you deal with situations where a local representative agrees, but the national organization does not? This discussion could include consideration of changing local demographics vs. traditional national user group input and their impact on public land management decisions.

Following a half day orientation and a day-long field trip, the students will spend a day and a half discussing policy considerations from the perspective of today's youth. This discussion will lead to a set of recommendations which will be delivered to the BLM director and Secretary of the Interior.

DONATIONS SOUGHT

YOUR HELP IS REQUESTED! The PLF Fundraising Committee is seeking to raise \$30,000 through donations this year to finance the two \$5,000 George Lea Founder's Scholarship grants and support the Student Congress to be held in August 2018. Fundraising letters have been sent to all PLF members

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DONATIONS SOUGHT

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and to a number of outside organizations requesting help in sponsoring these two high priority projects.

It costs \$2,000.00 to send a student to the Student Congress. This covers all travel, meals, and lodging expenses, as well as meeting rooms and speaker fees.

Each \$5,000.00 scholarship is awarded to a highly capable, motivated natural resource student who may not otherwise be able to complete their degree or join the job pool of potential future BLM employees.

Donations should be sent to the Public Lands Foundation, P.O. Box 7226, Arlington, VA 22207. Donations can also be made by visiting the Public Lands Foundation website (www.publicland.org/getinvolved/donate). In your transmittal, please make sure to mention that your donation is for the George Lea Founder's Scholarship or for the Student Congress Fund. Remember, if you are making a donation in memory of somebody who has passed away, you can designate your donation to go to one of these funds. The PLF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization. Your donations are tax-deductible to the maximum extent permitted under the law.

REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS FOR PLF'S LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD

by Beau McClure and Maggie Wyatt

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.

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 one endorsement by someone who has knowledge of the nominee's accomplishments.

The PLF Lifetime Service Award evaluation factors are listed on the Awards page of the PLF website at www.publicland.org. (Click on Menu, then expand What We Do, then click on Awards, then click on the first "here" in the sentence mentioning "...awards to BLM employees....").

If you want to nominate someone, please send the nomination and endorsement by August 1, 2018 to Maggie Wyatt, Chair, Lifetime Service Awards Committee, 2523 Falls View Circle, Grand Junction, Colorado 81505-1073; or (preferably) by e-mail to 51booklover@gmail.com.

REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS FOR PLF'S LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARDS

by Dave Mari

Once again, the Public Lands Foundation is accepting nominations of a private citizen(s) or group(s) who deserve to be recognized for their sustained contributions at a **landscape scale** to the conservation and management of public lands administered by the BLM. PLF members and BLM employees are encouraged to submit nominations by **August 1, 2018**. Winners will be determined at the PLF Board of Directors meeting in Billings, Montana, in September, and they will be announced and recognized soon thereafter.

The BLM has a variety of land use plans and projects that are intended to address the use, allocation and improvement of the 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

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REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS FOR PLF'S LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARDS

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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 a landscape scale that includes, in whole or in part, lands administered by the BLM. The focus on landscapes is intended to be broad in nature versus small-scale, local, project-oriented efforts.

The organizations, groups and individuals typically envisioned for this award are those who took a leadership role to address landscape-scale issues. Emphasis is on individual local citizens or groups comprised of local citizens who are typically all-volunteer without paid staff. A good example would be a coalition of individuals or citizen groups joining together to address issues within a certain landscape to bring about improved stewardship. 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 at www.publicland.org. Click on "Menu," "What We Do," then on "Awards," then on "Landscape Stewardship Award/Certificate of Appreciation Recipients." Once there, you will find information about the award, candidates, nomination and selection process, evaluation factors, as well as a copy of the nomination form. Please send nominations by **August 1, 2018**, by email to dmari@publicland.org.

INTERVIEW WITH THE HONORABLE SALLY JEWELL, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR (APRIL 2013 - JANUARY 2017) by Geoff Middaugh

Through the efforts of Ray Brady and Neil Kornze, I was able to make contact with the Honorable Sally Jewell, 51st Secretary of the Interior, in February 2018. Secretary Jewell and her husband, Warren, stopped by our house for an interview, which I recorded and transcribed below. I have edited the interview carefully to maintain her thoughts and words as much as possible but tried to clarify comments and context. I have also freely used acronym's that are familiar to the PLF membership without spelling them out. If there are any

errors in transcription, they are mine and mine alone and not the Board or Officers of the PLF. Her comments, feedback and insights on the complex political environment within the Department of the Interior were as cogent as they were interesting.

Geoff Middaugh (GM): Thank you for taking the time to talk to the PLF. The mission of the Public Lands Foundation is *to advocate and work for the retention of America's Public Lands in public hands, professionally and sustainably managed for responsible common use and enjoyment.*

Let's jump right into the questions. I am interviewing the Honorable Sally Jewell, who was the Secretary for three years or four years?

Sally Jewell (SJ): Almost four years, President Obama's second term.

GM: Thank you for your time, and the mission of PLF is to keep public land in public ownership, and to have our national system of public lands managed under the mandates of FLPMA. These are contentious times for the public lands. What do you see is the future of public lands?

SJ: I think public lands are more important now than (they) ever have been, and their importance will continue to grow over time. We are growing as a population in the world. Open spaces and public lands are going to continue to have greater challenges, just as populations grow and the demands on the resources intensify. The need for public lands and particular lands in conservation will grow over time. They are more critical than ever. Certainly, we've seen lots of threats to them with the Trump administration and certain states that have the inclination to take them over. They want to take them over to exploit them. When I worked alongside BLM employees, I have been incredibly impressed with the balanced perspective they bring, and how hard they try to satisfy their many masters. The other thing I would say about public lands management is that our public lands are changing because of climate change, and there are greater threats to the resources that we have taken for granted. Whether forest, or grasslands, or sagebrush habitats, all of these things that we now know more about and their importance to clean water and clean air habitat, and public lands and their resources have been under appreciated, and certainly underemphasized in the history of BLM, and are now more important than ever.

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INTERVIEW WITH THE HONORABLE SALLY JEWELL*(Continued from Page 5.)*

GM: Second question: You saw BLM employees work under the complexities of FLPMA and how to meet all of these competing mandates, and serve many masters, as you say. How do you think BLM would work if they moved the Washington Office west to someplace, and reorganized by regions?

SJ: I actually think this effort (that) is being touted by Secretary Zinke has nothing to do with improving the efficiency of the organization, and everything to do frankly as an excuse to shrink government and make it not work. The epicenter of BLM is already in the field. And, as a business person, which is basically what I am, I have had four years of government service, and I highly respect people who have spent their careers in government service. It's not as simple as running a business. Government is not intended to be efficient like a business, and it's not intended to get the most from the resource for the least. (Government) is intended to be the steward of the land over the long term. And it is intended—as FLPMA speaks of this—to address the complexities of multiple use and sustained yield. And, of course, some people like to talk just the multiple use aspect and not the sustained yield aspect.

So, the epicenter is already in the field and yet the money emanates from Washington, D.C.; and it would be a huge mistake to not have a strong backbone for BLM in Washington, D.C. because it is important that the BLM be available to members of Congress, and the White House and to advocate for the needs of the field. But still the Washington Office is a small part of BLM and it would be a mistake. There is already a massive office in Denver and already shared services that have been generated. I think this reorganization is a thinly veiled attempt to actually shrink the size and effectiveness of all the agencies in the Department of the Interior, including BLM.

GM: A subset of that question is that you said you worked with BLM employees. What was different about BLM employees in D.C. compared to other agencies staff, and what was different about BLM employees and staff compared to the rest of the department?

SJ: I'd say that if there was one word to describe the BLM, it would be "scrappy." I think that BLM has probably a more complicated mission than the other agen-

cies of Interior, and it serves more masters. BLM has in many ways built-in conflict. The whole DOI, and running it as Secretary, is all about conflict; and the conflicts come from differing mandates and different organic acts. If you have the FWS in one lane about protecting species and habitat, and the NPS whose organic act deals with leaving these treasured resources unimpaired for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations, and for BLM it's a multiple use and sustained yield mandate, and I think what happens over time is the BLM—and you saw this with the NLCS—there was a recognition of a conservation responsibility as an important part of the multiple use and a sustained yield mandate of BLM. And, that moved BLM beyond (just) the facilitating permitting for grazing and oil and gas, and mining and others things, and moving towards a more complex mandate, but a mandate that recognized the value of public lands beyond exploitation of the resources.

The importance of sustainable management of the lands—which is not if you just look in the rear-view mirror—but (understanding) there are all types of mistakes we have made. These include fire management, or grazing the wrong lands, introduction of invasive species like cheat grass, and so on. BLM deals with all of those. I say I love all my children equally, which is true, for every agency added value, but I found in the BLM a real grounded approach. I had to explain to people often that BLM employees are part of your community in the west, this isn't the big government from Washington, D.C. These are the people on the side of the soccer field with you, and they live in the community, and they have limited resources—which have only shrunk over time, certainly over the last decade or two—and yet our understanding of the value of the land and landscapes is more significant than it's ever been.

It was a delight to work with the BLM, and frankly (when) my husband Warren and I left D.C., we took a road trip of three months. We visited about 60 different sites of the DOI, and as Warren will tell you that some of his favorite trips were (and I have been many more places) hanging out with the BLM people and hanging out with some of the FWS people in the more obscure refuges that no one goes to visit, and seeing the complexity of what they took on and the pride in their day-to-day work on the land and in their communities.

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INTERVIEW WITH THE HONORABLE SALLY JEWELL*(Continued from Page 6.)*

GM: The PLF has undertaken an initiative called the Student Congress (SJ: Yes, I know of it), and I have a brochure to give you, and we have one this summer in Baker City, Oregon, where we have tried to engage young people. Now you work in academia, and what is it that would help to engage young people to understand BLM and the nuances of BLM, and all that you just described. Lots of people get interested in Yosemite and Yellowstone, and the premier parks, but a look at what happens in Baker City is different.

SJ: I would do what you are doing, and I applaud PLF in engaging with young people and helping them understand what public service is, and how public service interacts with our democracy. The importance is citizen engagement in a public process. My fall was spent at Harvard as a Fellow at the Institute of Politics in the Kennedy School, and I was assigned six undergraduate students that worked closely with me as a liaison and they helped with publicity with the session and a variety of others things. One of them from Oklahoma City is involved (in a separate) student congress effort in Washington, D.C. This effort included engagement on the Hill, and I think that even working with me for the three months while at Harvard, these students opened their eyes in terms of the importance of voting, the importance of engaging with the elected officials, and the importance of public service.

The complexity of managing our lands, managing our nation's resources, is not on their radar. For many of them, the experience was to make sure that public service was on their radar. I think with the current administration, and even since the Clinton administration, we've seen the steady erosion of confidence in our government, including the open season on public employees. We see the fact that nobody has any qualms about putting down public employees, and that is undermining the interest of younger generations going into public service. And yet, when they do engage, like what I tried to explain in my study groups at Harvard, you have an ability to have such a greater impact in public service than in the private sector. And it is so important that this new generation learn about public service—like occupy Wall Street from the inside—and bring a perspective on sustainability and thoughtful land management from the inside. They will

have a better opportunity to change it, as opposed to being frustrated and just walking away.

One of the reasons I am not going back into the corporate world and will stay in the political world is that I feel that my calling is to pay it forward and take this knowledge that I have been blessed with in my career to help students understand how they can have an impact. Young people today want to have meaning in their lives, and it's more important than having a big paycheck, and public service is an important way to do that. BLM is so far off the radar for most young people unless they are already living in rural communities or have parents in the BLM. I see that your work in PLF to raise this awareness is really, really smart.

GM: I just hope that BLM can hire some of these students.

SJ: Yes, and you can see where this reorganization stuff goes, and the talk of moving out of employees, and getting people to retire early; and that's a catastrophe for public lands because these skills are lost, and if we don't find a way to bring young people in and train them with the people who have been there. There is so much of brain drain now that we will just have to relearn it all.

GM: Seems like public lands have been in the news lately, from the Bundy's to energy to everything else. The politics of public lands is complex and ever present to those of us who have been around for a while. How do you think the agency and the American public are going to survive this time? What does your crystal ball see?

SJ: Well, I use one example. I am very worried about what is happening right now and how long it will take to recover from what I consider to be nefarious and sinister acts by the Trump administration. I do think this administration is making decisions that are NOT in the public interest. I think this is an administration that is making decisions that are being shaped by private interests, and a relatively small number of private interests. Folks specifically in the extractive industry. I don't know exactly what is behind it; but for a president who talks about draining the swamp, he has hired some of the most notorious swamp creatures we have ever

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known. I see people who lobbied for the oil and gas industry and the big water interests in California, who are not operating in the best interest of the American public.

I have one example such as Badger Two Medicine (in Montana). This is an area that is USFS land, with minerals, you know, managed by BLM, in conjunction with the USFS. And between the Blackfeet Reservation in Montana and glacier National Park, and I have been there with tribal leaders from the Blackfeet Nation, and they have been fighting for over thirty years, since James Watt opened it up to oil and gas development, and signed leases with various players. And it was 30 years to track down the people and repay them their lease payments, their rents, and so on, so that that land would not be developed. It should never have been leased. It is sacred to the Blackfeet, and on the doorstep of a National Park, in a sensitive area for all kinds of reasons. And yet, it was 30 years, and lots of people worked on it, and we finally got it across the finish line, but not until a lot of money and time and resources had been wasted, and the tribe's hopes, you know, raised and dashed and raised and dashed. *(Note by GM: After this interview, Secretary Zinke announced the withdrawal of lease parcels from an upcoming sale, and there is continued discussion about a national monument in this area).*

I tried to oversee the department with a real long view. We did oil and gas development, and thoughtful planning, and BLM's work on sage grouse, and the USFS and the work on the desert renewable conservation plan, planning 2.0, the master leasing plans in Utah, and all these are real authentic efforts to deconflict the landscapes and help companies have certainty with areas with sensitivities such as tribal reasons, or habitat conservation, or viewsheds, and others such as ecosystems connected to Yellowstone to Yukon. All that work has been undermined by this administration, and yet it's exactly what BLM should have been doing and should be doing. The only thing I take comfort in is that those actions by the Trump administration are being challenged in court (except 2.0 which was a Congressional review act reversal which is unfortunate). But if you look at Master Leasing Plans in Utah, and you look at sage grouse, and the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) in California, those

are things that had a lot of public process; and they can't reverse them without some public process now, that changes that. And there are fortunately organizations, non-profits that will sue them; and they will be snarled up in court, which of course is an inefficiency, and thank God for it, because this was good work. And this was the work that was NOT done to benefit the oil companies or the environmentalist, as this was just good solid work done. Let's be sensible so that we can bring certainty to all sides.

GM: PLF this last year has embarked on a process for a strategic plan. We have 500 members, 98% are retired BLM employees, but we plan on doing a strategic plan and trying to figure out where to focus our efforts. We aren't a group just talking about the good old days. So, what do you think should be part of our strategic plan? What do you think could help the agency, or public lands, recruitment, and to make our efforts relevant?

SJ: First and foremost I think it is being a supportive place for the current employees. So that they have a sense that somebody has their back. I don't know exactly what it would look like, but I think it is important to help support current employees. You've got a Conservation Lands Foundation, that supports the nonprofit way of supporting the conservation lands. There is an overlap; but there are different dimensions, in PLF's case I think that BLM employees have in many ways a more difficult and less defined job than other agencies. And so, having their backs, advocating for them, saying things that need to be said that they cannot say is important. That is advocacy. I think some organizations —like the FWS retirees—often times speak up when the FWS employees cannot speak up. I don't know if PLF members broadly represent the BLM? Do they lean more to the conservation side as opposed to the exploitation side?

GM: I think we are diverse, and we have a broad group. We have all different views in our membership, just like FLPMA contains all types of management views from conservation for the future, to minerals to sustained yield. Now we are a lot of "FLPMA babies," who joined in the mid 70s and early 80s, and are expanding our membership now with retirements.

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SJ: I think that being a voice to share what the employees cannot say, but they are definitely thinking. And encouraging employees to stay, bringing your backgrounds, and stay away from these huge ideological swings, like from Clinton to Bush, which was a big ideological swing, but none of us anticipated the Obama to Trump period. I don't think anyone anticipated this level of ideological swing—I certainly didn't—nor imagine that the Trump administration would be as bad for public lands as it is, and so anti-environment as broadly as they are. I don't know where it came from, and I don't think it comes from any specific ideology that Trump has because he doesn't have an environmental ideology.

The whole thing is about supporting the people in Interior who believe that this too shall pass, but we will have clean up to do. But leaving now is probably one of the worse things they can do for the public lands, because it plays into the hands of those—and this is the motivation of the current DOI—that do not want government to work. They want to prove it doesn't work so that States can take over, or just support local groups; but we know that decisions are made locally now, contrary to what you hear. There is a broader reasoning for just exploitation, and some quite frankly corruption. The worse thing that we can do is lose good people. I also heard from a non-BLM employee and spouse who had been reassigned at the SES level, and he said "I am going to stick in here, Sally, for 8 years, and tough it out." Then he got up to leave and his wife said to me "I don't think I can take three more years of this as he comes home every night frustrated and angry with what is being done." She said there is a toll to all this. We can't completely offset it all, but at least a friendly ear to current employees to support, them. If the PLF members are from all over and if they still live in rural communities, being there at public meetings, speaking out on behalf of BLM, bringing a thoughtful perspective so that all is not dominated by the extremes, is really really important.

GM: Are there extremes on both sides?

SJ: Absolutely, on both sides. I would get sued more by environmental organizations, and it didn't stop the Center for Biological Diversity, but every step of the

way I got sued by them. That's important. But this is different.

GM: As former Secretary, what do you see is important for PLF? What about the knowledge and experience that groups like PLF have? Our knowledge of the laws, and the battles we have fought with the Antiquities Act, and others? Is there a value for that expertise? And passing it along to existing employees?

SJ: No question about it. Being a kitchen cabinet to some officials in a state, or regional office, or districts is my idea.

GM: We have considered mentoring with people or officials who ask. In a non-official way. Not call someone up but be called by them with questions is what we work towards.

SJ: I think that is great. One thing PLF can do with its members is to work with current BLM line folks, so that they keep up with changes. You talked about some of your gatherings being about the good old days, and some not. We understand that times have changed, and we understand more than we used too and it's not good just to reminisce about the good old days, and talk to them like they are in the 1970s. Now, listening is important, and it's important for PLF to understand how current events change, and BLM's role may change, and then still there are experiences that PLF members have had that are relevant to certain issues, and certain changes. Like how to deal with local officials, and county councils, and how to deal with non-profit organizations with agendas, and how to bring people together around a community to build constructive trust and relationships. One example is the Refuge Manager for the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in contrast to the BLM office in Burns. This Manager did an exceptional job of inviting people that otherwise would not be supportive of the mission of the FWS to the table and through that action, in this one example, was able to help farmers understand the benefits of sheet irrigation as opposed to point irrigation which would also help waterfowl and wetlands, but also be good for crops as well. Through that collaboration, in essence, he greatly enhanced the FWS mission well beyond the boundaries of the MNW

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INTERVIEW WITH THE HONORABLE SALLY JEWELL

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Refuge, and help the farmers with their crop yields, but they were allies together.

Even though the way things went in the courts with the Bundy Boys was not the way any of us wanted, the rallying around Malheur by the county council members, by the Sheriff's office, all of that was a function of trust that had been built up, and there are lessons there. I visited the BLM office there too, but there was more of an "us versus them" position. For PLF members, especially when you can think of examples where BLM was a respected partner in the community and explain how they'd meet around coffee at the kitchen table, and build relationships, and help them understand your mission, while you listen to what they want. That wisdom is not something that diminishes in value over time; a retiree could be very helpful bringing people together.

During the standoff I visited Burns. I had visited ranchers when I was a banker and knew the community is filled with super people who cared about the land. But I found mistrust and heard about it from Greg Walden, the Congressman from Oregon, who has been very difficult in dealing with things like Klamath Water and dam removal, and other agencies in Interior. He worked on the Steen's Mountain Wilderness, and he talked with me numerous times about his frustrations. He reminded me that BLM was supposed to build some fences, or take down some fences, but BLM didn't do whatever it was they were supposed to do. It seems BLM never took the actions that they committed to take. He said they'd lost his trust, and he'd lost confidence in the local BLM. But it's a good illustration of where the benefit of experience, and dealing with experience, and following up on commitments, and understanding all these can be helpful when navigating a complex (political) landscape and doing so with fewer resources than there were in the past.

GM: The Steen's and Owyhee Canyonlands are good examples of trying to develop trust and cooperation. Then I see the dysfunction in Utah. Now it's GSENM and Bear's Ears; then there was a plan for the San Rafael Swell in Utah, and other planning for national monument status.

SJ: We now know more about the (resource) values of GSENM for its paleontological discoveries are still being discovered, but it is (now) being reversed.

GM: How will these survive?

SJ: We went to the Kanab field office, and we were amazed about the conflict in the field office (responsible for the public land not in the monument). We went to the field around Kanab where we saw cliff dwellings and had fun scrambling over the lands. Then we went out into GSENM and saw the vast paleontological values. Within the offices you have a lot of animosity. You would have one person who had political cartoons on his wall that were anti-EPA and other inappropriate cartoons, and it was considered acceptable to have this in their work space, across from people trying to work on paleontology in the monument. You could see all that conflict in the office with a dividing line between the two views.

We also saw the folks in St. George, Utah, who worked next to the Bundy Ranch in Gold Butte, and then we saw the petroglyphs there. Those are complicated jobs, and Utah politics influence their shape and the agency in a unique way. Trump doesn't give a rat's behind about public lands, the GSENM or Bear's Ears, as he has bigger and more complicated things like tax reform. He wanted to curry favor with the Utah congressional delegation, and that was more important to him than monuments, paleontology, petroglyphs or public land.

GM: Last questions: What were your most difficult issues with BLM? Do you see any resolution to them?

SJ: First was the Bundy Ranch situation which was by far the most difficult. Malheur was also difficult. Then the government shutdown, which was so stupid, so stupid. Such a waste of taxpayer money. *(Note: this was the 17-day government-wide shut down in October 2013).*

The Bundy Ranch thing was very, very disheartening. Then the verdict that sent messages to the employees in Nevada; that was bad. I had to be appropriate with the BLM field staff, but I didn't want to get them

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INTERVIEW WITH THE HONORABLE SALLY JEWELL

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in trouble. I want you to know I was thinking of them. That was sad. Bundy is a bad actor, who has not paid his grazing fees in over 20 years. Most of the ranchers that I know distance themselves from Bundy—for all kinds of reasons. They don't like paying their grazing fees; they don't want to pay them even though they are super cheap, when compared with the state and private lands charging so much more.

The Bundys and the decision to stand down, it was a decision by Neal Kornze and myself together. And at that point we didn't have an Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals; we had an acting, but it was really Neal and I made the call to stand down after they did the roundup of the cattle. It is because everybody was set to shoot each other, and we would have had a lot of people killed. There were more cattle to round up to enforce the law, but it just was not something we felt was appropriate. There were lessons that BLM learned that were very painful along the way - things that will shape decisions into the future. But I was proud of the fact that we did stand down, and there was not blood spilled. I am disappointed at the outcomes in the courts, but that is more the fault of the attorneys for the prosecution and the tactics they used, along with some of the actions of the law enforcement.

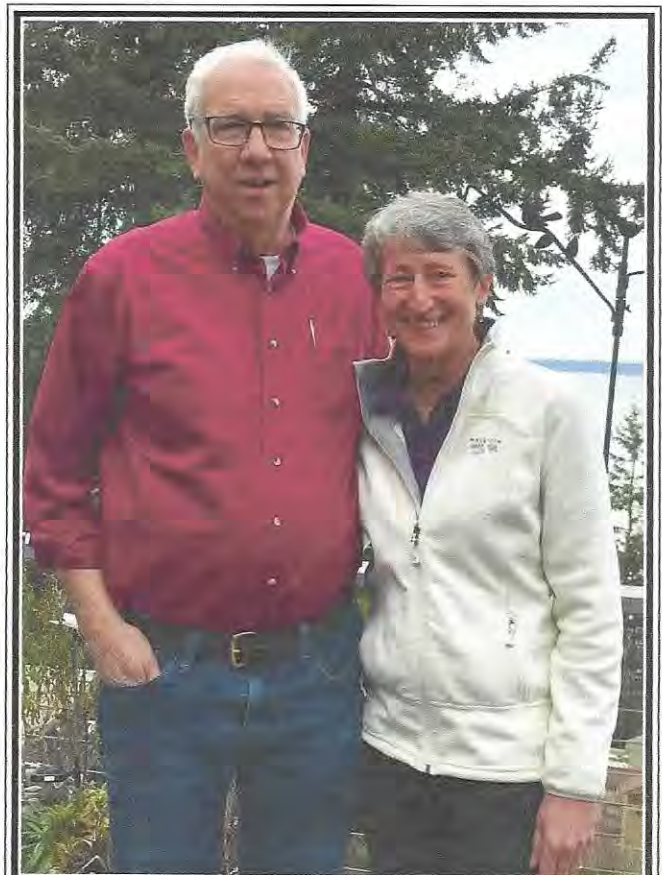
GM: There will be plenty of folks continuing to analyze this for a long time.

SJ: That was by far the hardest of what we had to deal with, as people from all agencies were impacted, such as FWS Law Enforcement (LE), NPS LE, and other agencies that do that type of operation; and then to come out of it with nothing is a lesson that was hard, because the Bundys feel empowered. Then the follow-on activities, such as we had the individual who was going to blow up a BLM field facility in Arizona; and there were the mineral squatters in Oregon that we had the militia called out for the Sugar Pine Mine when BLM was enforcing the law; and then in Montana we had conflict. These are already hard jobs and lonely jobs, and people are in vulnerable positions and that definitely kept me up at night, and, talking to the BLM law enforcement who were out patrolling vast areas alone. It's frightening.

GM: Thank you so much for your candid and valuable

insights to the job of Secretary of the Interior and your interactions with BLM employees.

Post Interview notes: As an aside, I said to the Secretary after I turned the microphone off that she had not mentioned wild horses and the difficulties of seeing light at the end of the tunnel for resolving the growing populations of horses. She said that she was warned by the previous Secretary, Ken Salazar, to be careful around horses. Stay away from it if you can, because there are no solutions without changes in law.



Geoff Middaugh & Former Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell. Photo by Debbie Middaugh.

How many times have you noticed that it's the little quiet moments in the midst of life that seem to give the rest extra-special meaning?

— Fred Rogers

CLIVEN'S LUCK? - A CLOSE LOOK AT THE BUNDY PROBLEM

By Christopher Brong, March 15, 2018

The Cliven Bundy story offers all the characters and plot of a good old Western movie, complete with the defiant rancher, disputed land and water rights, cattle rustling, government demands and misconduct, and an ambush. Who wins?

It begins with the Bundy family living in a remote, isolated, and extremely dry region of southern Utah, northern Arizona, and southeastern Nevada in the early 1900s. Living back then as a desert rancher would have been an extremely unique lifestyle, foreign to most folks today. Few visitors or government agents stopped by. Electricity, phones, radio, TV and Internet were yet to come. The daily focus was on survival, water, stock management and tending the land for forage.

By 1948, Cliven Bundy's parents bought a 160-acre private parcel with water rights in the Gold Butte region of Clark County, in southern Nevada. With a federal grazing permit, the family started grazing cattle in 1954 on the surrounding lands known as the Bunkerville Allotment. These lands, formally known as the Public Domain, had just undergone a major grazing management change when Congress merged the functions of the General Land Office and the Grazing Service, creating the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) public lands.

Cliven Bundy continued grazing and selling cattle, his parents' way of "free-range" cattle ranching with no fences, no borders on the public lands. Desert life was about to become much more complicated for Cliven.

In 1972, President Johnson created the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, encompassing BLM land and reducing the Bunkerville Allotment. By 1976, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act mandated multiple use and retention of public lands, range management reform, and a ten-year grazing permit renewal requirement. Due to the Endangered Species Act over 190,000 acres in Clark County were designated for desert tortoise protection in 1990. BLM reduced the number of cattle Bundy could graze. Further expansion of the Las Vegas urban and commercial region on to public lands was started under the 1980 Santini-Burton Act and the 1998 Southern Nevada Public Land

Management Act. The acts provided public and private land exchanges and sales. Desert tortoises were relocated to nearby public lands. Funding was appropriated for purchase of private ranches and grazing permits. Bundy resisted all offers; he wanted to stay and continue grazing cattle without any interference from the BLM.

In 1993, he made the personal decision that the BLM did not have the right to manage the BLM public lands and discontinued paying yearly grazing fees to the BLM. By 2013, BLM was successful in obtaining a federal court order to impound his cattle on public lands and an estimated \$ 1 million fine for unauthorized grazing fees and court costs.

Bundy's luck would seem to have completely run out. Not so; his run of good luck had just started with this new episode energizing the western "Patriot" communities.

The BLM plans for Bundy's cattle round up were started and completed under the direction of BLM Special Agent Dan Love. A new BLM Director, Neil Kornze, a former protégé and staff assistant to Nevada Senator Reid, gave the "GO" signal for the operation to begin on April 5, 2014. A week later, April 12, 2014, the cattle rounded up by BLM were released when the Clark County Sheriff Doug Gillespie was called upon and brokered a "stand down" deal between BLM and National Park Service (NPS) law enforcement officers facing a very large crowd of heavily armed "patriots." Ultimately, the local Sheriff Gillespie had come to the rescue of an extremely dangerous armed standoff. Agent Love would later be fired by BLM for misconduct in August 2016.

Ninety-three percent of all Department of Justice (DOJ) cases brought before the federal courts are won with convictions. The Cliven Bundy court case would fit into the remaining 7% dismissed or found not guilty. On March 2, 2016, Bundy and 18 other defendants were charged with a several count federal Grand Jury indictment alleging conspiracy and assault charges. The trial started with the lengthy process of discovery of evidence, with volumes of evidence provided by the

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CLIVEN'S LUCK? - A CLOSE LOOK AT THE BUNDY PROBLEM

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prosecution. The trial never got off to a successful start due to multiple violations where other known evidence of government reports and video surveillance were not provided to Bundy's attorney. Federal judge Gloria Navarro made shockingly critical statements regarding the behavior of the DOJ prosecution. Judge Navarro dismissed the case, with prejudice, due to prosecutorial misconduct citing "outrageous...flagrant misconduct...substantial prejudice." Attorney General Jeff Sessions took notice and directed DOJ to conduct an investigation of US Attorney Steven Myhre and two staff attorneys, which led to Myhre's demotion in January 2018. This was to be the second occurrence where Myhre failed to produce all evidence to the defense resulting in a Judge's dismissal of a separate 2008 DOJ case.

Before the start of the trial in 2016, the FBI wanted more evidence and statements of guilt from Bundy and his fellow defendants. Undercover FBI agents posing as "Longbow Productions", a film documentary crew, traveled to five states for eight months hoping to entrap the defendants with their own statements about their conduct during the Bundy roundup. The film titled "America Reloaded" was presented as evidence in the trial. It was a wasted effort and a police tactic not appreciated or condoned by journalists.

America seems to love "activists", and Cliven's sons decided to create their own standoff episode of government resistance in remote southeast Oregon. Ammon and Ryan Bundy, along with more armed "patriots", conducted the occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge headquarters, near Burns, Oregon. This was a protest of government authority over public lands. Just as in the westerns, the "law" planned an ambush where the outlaws were headed after 41 days of the refuge occupation. LeVoy Finicum, Ryan Bundy, and a few other occupation sympathizers were traveling to a meeting in John Day, Oregon, when they met a FBI Hostage Rescue Team and Oregon State Police (OSP) roadblock on isolated US Route 395 on January 26, 2016. Finicum attempted to evade the roadblock, crashed on the roadside, and was shot and killed by two OSP troopers. Ryan was also injured.

The Deschutes County Sheriff report notes LeVoy was armed when the OSP troopers shot LeVoy. The shooting is now mired in FBI false statements and obstruction of justice. FBI Agent W. Joseph Astarita is now charged with lying to DOJ investigators about firing his weapon at Finicum at the same time as the OSP and obstruction of justice. We will never know the exact details of this shooting since the FBI requested the OSP to not wear their uniform body cameras during the ambush.

By February 2017, Senior BLM Special Agent Larry Wooten had finally had enough of the Bundy cattle roundup fiasco. His BLM Supervisors had apparently ignored his internal complaints of misconduct by BLM agents involved in the roundup. He was removed from the case, along with all of his case records by the BLM. Then in November 2017, he put his federal law enforcement career on the line when he submitted a 18 page "whistleblower" report to DOJ documenting a "widespread pattern of bad judgment, lack of discipline, incredible bias, unprofessionalism and misconduct" by certain BLM agents involved in the Bundy roundup. Agent Wooten noted he was driven to send the whistleblower memo because his supervisor "deceptively acted ignorant and dismissive" about agent misconduct concerns. DOJ has not responded to date.

To further complicate the cattle roundup, in December 2016, President Obama created the Gold Butte National Monument, which encompassed the Bunkerville Allotment. The BLM, then Senator Reid, and Interior Secretary Jewell recommended the National Monument designation.

A happy ending in the old western movie, Bundy's cattle continue grazing on the public lands. Beyond this script is the beginning for the sequel. The government has lost due to the reality of public perception and the many news reports: the round up failed, and misconduct allegations plague the BLM, FBI, and the Nevada US Attorney. Many question their confidence in the government. Constant litigation and current land management laws have not solved the Bundy cattle problem. Ryan Bundy is running for Nevada Governor and to create a "sovereign" state.

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IN MEMORIUM

Note: Putting together this list in the *The Monitor*, maintaining the Memorial Wall on the website, and updates in the Remembering BLM Facebook page take 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.

Sarah T. Bridges, who worked in the Eastern States Office in Virginia as the BLM’s 4th archaeologist, on May 31, 2015, in Arlington, VA.

John Paul Cook, who worked as the Fairbanks District Archaeologist, AK, for nearly two decades, on December 22, 2017, in Fairbanks, AK.

Gordon Paul Cormier, who worked as a Geologist at the Field Offices in Miles City, MT and St. George, UT, on February 14, 2018, in Billings, MT.

Mary Craggett, who retired from BLM in 2004 and worked in the Battle Mountain, NV office, on April 4, 2008, in Reno, NV

Bowman “Bo” Hinckley, began his 20-year BLM career as a Public Contact Representative, later was promoted to Public Room Supervisor, Fairbanks SO, AK, on January 30, 2018, in Fairbanks, AK.

Birrell “Elvias” Hirschi, who began work as a Range Technician, Billings DO, MT; and Surface Protection Specialist, and Fire Manager, House Range RA, Fillmore and Salt Lake Districts, Utah, on January 12, 2018, in West Valley City, UT.

Marko Kecman, who was a Petroleum Engineering Technician in the Farmington District Office, NM on December 26, 2017, in Farmington, NM.

Timothy Ray Nowak, who worked as the State Archaeologist, WYSO, on July 7, 2007, in Denver, CO.

William “Bill” Papich, who worked as a Public Relations Officer at the Farmington District Office in

New Mexico, on December 19, 2017, in Farmington, NM.

James M. Parker, who worked at various leadership positions in the Washington Office and the Utah State Director, on April 29, 2017, in Salt Lake City, UT.

John Robinson, who began working at the Eugene District, OR in the mid-1950’s and later transferred to the Medford District office, and retired in 1981, on October 27, 2016, in Medford, OR.

William “Bill” Schowe, who worked as a Range Conservationist in the Fillmore and Operations Chief in the Salt Lake Districts, UT, and Eagle Lake Resource Area Manager, Susanville, CA, on December 23, 2017, in Salt Lake City, UT.

LaRalle Richard Smith, who worked in the Coeur d’Alene DO, ID & AKSO, Anchorage, AK, in January 2018, in Pasco, WA.

Harold Stichcomb, who during his 30-year career with BLM was Chief of Resources and ADM at Rock Springs DO, WY and then Chief, Branch of Lands and Minerals at WYSO, Cheyenne, WY, on February 4, 2018, in Perkins, OK.

Younger T. “Jack” Witherspoon, who was the BLM Oregon/Washington state cultural program lead from 1975 to 1985. After retirement Jack continued his cultural resources assistance to ORSO for nearly 20 more years, on July 19, 2013.

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