THE PUBLIC LANDS Monitor

For America's Heritage

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SUMMER QUARTER 2019

2019 PLF ANNUAL MEETING — RENO, NEVADA
September 10-13, 2019

It is time to register for this year’s Annual Meeting. This year we are providing a new option for the meeting registration. Register on line through our website at www.publicland.org. Try it out. The deadline for early registration is August 16, 2019. For those who do not have internet access or prefer not to register on line, you still have the option of filling out the Registration form included as an insert in this Monitor and sending it, along with your check, to Beau McClure at the address shown on the insert.

This year’s theme is “Mineral Development and Management.”

Members of the Board of Directors and others interested in attending the Board Meeting on Tuesday, September 10, should plan to arrive in Reno on Monday, September 9.

On Wednesday, September 11, we will be taking a trip by bus to tour the Couer-Rochester open pit silver and gold mine, which is located approximately 13 miles northeast of Lovelock, NV. The tour involves very little walking. The mine will provide hard hats, vests, safety glasses, ear plugs and a safety briefing. Participants will need to wear sturdy shoes (NO OPEN TOED SHOES OR SANDALS). The mine also will be providing a barbecue lunch on site. The tour will be leaving the Peppermill Resort at about 7:30 a.m. and returning at 3:00 p.m.

The Wednesday evening dinner will be held at the Bartley Ranch Regional Park from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Fig Tree Catering will be providing a meal of Mini Pork Sliders with Hoison sauce and Asian slaw on Hawaiian roll or BBQ sauce and coleslaw. Dinner also includes Mediterranean shrimp or Asian Chicken Salad, tossed green salad, fresh fruit salad and Mediterranean pasta salad. The Park is located at 6000 Bartley Ranch Road, Reno, NV.

Bob Wick, award winning BLM photographer, is planning to attend our Wednesday dinner and give a presentation on his experiences photographing public lands. Jerry Magee also is donating three panels of Wild and Scenic River stamps and three individual commemorative postcards with stamps autographed by Bob Wick. These stamps were released on May 21, 2019 at a USPS celebration in Bend, OR and featured 3 W&SR photos taken by Bob Wick. These items will be part of this year’s (Continued on Page 3.)

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

There has been a lot happening since the spring edition of the Monitor. There have been personnel changes with BLM and Department leadership, BLM vacancies are being filled and other positions are being vacated, the proposed Headquarters move is still being developed, the Department’s reorganization is being “tweaked”, and PLF’s membership survey results have been analyzed and recommendations are being prepared for consideration. On the personnel front, David Bernhardt was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on April 11 as the 53rd Secretary of the Interior. He used his time as the Acting Secretary to get a running head start and, at least from my perspective, to begin moving forward on filling critical positions at a faster pace than we’ve seen in the last few years. Although at this time, a permanent Director for the BLM has still not been nominated. We wish the new Secretary well on running what is one of the more diverse missioned departments in the Federal government.

In late April, Brian Steed, BLM’s Deputy Director for Policy and Programs and Acting Director was named by Utah Governor Herbert as the Executive Director of the Utah Department of Natural Resources. Brian left the BLM in May, after being confirmed by the Utah State Senate. He had served as the BLM Acting Director since October 2017. The Secretary has recently assigned principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Casey Hammond, to the position of “exercising authority” of the BLM Director. Before taking his position in the Office of the Assistant Secretary, Casey was a senior advisor to the Oversight Subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources where he had served for several years. Best wishes to Brian and Casey on their new assignments.

The BLM State Director positions are also being filled. John Mehlhoff was recently named State Director for the Montana/Dakotas State Office. John most recently was an executive with the DOI Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR), but many of you remember John as a longtime BLMer who has served in several offices in the west and Washington and was the Colorado Associate State Director before moving over to ONRR. The California and Oregon/Washington State Director positions, however, are still vacant. There are still several Assistant Director positions open, the most recent being the AD for Renewable Resources and Planning (AD-200) that was vacated when Kristin Bail recently accepted the Forest Supervisor position on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest in Washington.

Uncertainty continues surrounding the proposals to reorganize the Department and the BLM. Secretary Bernhardt has indicated that he intends to review the proposed reorganization of the Department into twelve Regions, questioning the workability of a joint commander for the Regions. While it is not known at this time how far the Secretary will tweak the Department reorganization, it appears he is moving ahead with some form of a BLM headquarters west. He has confirmed his intentions at several events in the west, including the recent Western Governors meeting in Colorado. He has indicated that not all of the Washington Office would move and that some positions would remain in Washington to fulfill needed duties. The House Appropriations Committee has shown considerable concern with both proposals and has restricted funding for the reorganization in their FY 2020 Appropriations recommendations. The Committee’s recommendations include report language that states “The Committee is not convinced of the efficacy of moving additional personnel out of the headquarters area when approximately 93 percent of Bureau employees are already working in the field and directs that no additional relocations of headquarters staff take place.”

The PLF expressed our concern with the reorganization in our testimony before the House Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies public hearing in late February. We followed up by releasing a position statement on May 1 stating our opposition to moving the Headquarters and the necessity to have the Headquarters located in the D.C. area. The position statement which can be found on our website at www.publicland.org, under the Advocacy and Issues link, received considerable interest from the press. As they say, the devil is in the details; and as of now, the details have not been announced. We will continue to track this issue.

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PRESIDENT’S COLUMN
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Many of you responded to the PLF membership survey, and we appreciated you taking the time to let us know your opinion on how the PLF should move forward. A very big thank you to Ray Brady, George Stone, Bob Anderson, George Lea, and Mark Davis. These folks took on the onerous task of compiling and analyzing the survey results and preparing them for discussion and consideration at the Annual Meeting in Reno in September. There are a lot of good suggestions that can help the PLF as it moves forward. Implementing these recommendations will take the work of the entire membership. Please refer to our website at www.publicland.org, under the Membership link, to see the results of the survey.

Speaking of the Annual Meeting, have you registered yet? Registration is open, and we hope to see a lot of you at the Peppermill Resort Spa Casino in Reno, on September 10-13. The Board Meeting will be held all day on the 10th and until noon on the 13th and is open to all members. The Annual Meeting committee has been working hard to make this an enjoyable and productive meeting, so please come.

One of the things that the PLF does is track BLM’s history. Recently a big part of the BLM history, particularly fire management history, turned 100 years old. Jack Wilson celebrated his centennial birthday on April 2. Jack was an early driver of interagency fire management and was one of the pioneers of the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, or BIFC as it was called in the early days. Those of us that worked in fire management over the years owe a lot to Jack’s vision. I had the privilege of meeting Jack several times and got to work in the building at NIFC that bears his name. I also got to play golf with Jack when he was a spry 80-year-old. We were on the same team, but I’m sure he would have beaten me. John Fend interviewed Jack on his birthday and, with the help of the Idaho State Office Public Affairs staff, prepared a video to record the event. Happy Birthday, Jack!

I’d like to close by giving some kudos to our two George Lea Founder’s Scholarship recipients, Jill Young from Western Colorado University and Dylan Stewart from the University of Arizona. The two were chosen from a large list of worthy candidates. Each will receive $5,000 to put toward their continuing studies. Congratulations, Jill and Dylan!

Also, kudos to BLM employee Bob Wick. Bob is a photographer out of California. On May 21, the U.S. Postal Service released a set of stamps commemorating Wild and Scenic Rivers. Bob had three of his photos chosen for the stamps. The photos are of the Missouri River in Montana, the Deschutes River in Oregon, and the Clarion River in Pennsylvania. Our Board Representative for Oregon, Jerry Magee, interviewed Bob at the roll out event in Bend, OR and wrote a story for this edition of the Monitor. Thank you, Jerry, and congratulations and good work Bob!

And finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Pat Harvey for her assistance over the past many years as co-Editor in putting our newsletter together each quarter. Pat has done an excellent job and her dedication to this task has been deeply appreciated. Margaret Lithers, recently retired from the DOI Budget Office, has volunteered to assume the duties as the co-Editor of the Monitor and the PLF has also decided to use some new desktop publishing software to modernize the look of the newsletter. We look forward to these changes and thank Margaret for her willingness to assist the PLF in moving into the future.

I hope you all have a good summer and take the time to enjoy family, friends, and our public lands. Be safe and see you in Reno.

2019 PLF ANNUAL MEETING
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silent auction on Thursday evening. So, be sure to join us to hear about Bob’s experiences and bid on his and the other auction items.

A full-day meeting is planned for Thursday, September 12, to hear from a variety of speakers about “Mineral Development and Management” in Nevada. The Acting BLM Director has been invited to speak and Jon Raby, Nevada BLM State Director, will provide an overview of activities and priorities in Nevada.

On Thursday evening, an Open/Cash Bar will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a dinner banquet to begin at 7:00 p.m. (Continued on Page 4.)
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The banquet will include Honey Baked Ham and Dry Rubbed Tri-Tip with Barbecue sauce, Navy Bean & Ham soup, New England Clam Chowder, Seasonal Mixed Fruit Salad and chopped iceberg salad, with your choice of Vinaigrette or Ranch Dressing. Assorted pies, cakes and cookies will be available for dessert. Coffee and hot and iced tea service also will be provided.

A silent auction will also be held on Thursday evening, September 12. Consider donating items for the silent auction and please let Rosemary Thomas know as soon as possible what items you will be donating. You can reach Rosemary by email at newlinranch@gmail.com or by phone at 575-626-7923. If you need to ship the items donated, please send them “signature requested” to Jim CurriVan at 4705 Axe Handle Canyon Road, Reno, NV 89510-9111 to assure delivery. If possible, please send your donation before the end of August and include your phone number so that Jim can confirm with you that he has received it. All proceeds from the auction go to support the George Lea Founder’s Scholarship Program. So, please be generous with your donated items.

The Board of Directors will meet again on Friday morning through noon, September 13.

It also is time to make your lodging reservations at the Peppermill Resort Spa Casino, which is located at 2707 South Virginia Street in Reno. We have reserved North Wing Single King rooms at a rate of $85.00 per night, plus room tax and a Tourism Surcharge. Double beds or rollaway requests will be subject to a $20 charge for each additional bed, plus room tax. You must make your own reservations by calling 1-866-821-9996 and provide group code CPBLF19 no later than August 16, 2019. Please mention the Public Lands Foundation in order to receive the discounted group rate. You can also make reservations on line at https://book.passkey.com/e/49848764.

Reservations are subject to an early departure fee of $50 plus room tax in the event of departure prior to confirmed check-out date. Reservations are subject to a charge of one night’s room and room tax and Tourism Surcharge if cancelled less than 24 hours before the scheduled arrival date.

Guest accommodations will be available beginning at 3:00 p.m. on arrival day and reserved until 11:00 a.m. on departure day.

The Hotel Resort Fee (normally $30.00) will be reduced to $15.00 per room, per night. Amenities include:
- Shuttle service to and from the Reno Tahoe International Airport daily from 4 a.m.-11:45 p.m.
- Business center access
- Use of valet, EV Charging Stations, access to the parking garage and surface parking
- Use of the health club, pool and concierge
- Local and #800 phone calls and complimentary wireless internet
- In-room refrigerators and in-room coffee with Keurig Coffee Maker
- Two (2) bottles of water per night

If you have any questions, please contact Beau McClure by email at vprops@publicland.org, or by phone at (623) 587-7883.

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

The results from our Membership Survey are in! The PLF conducted its first membership survey between February and April 2019 using the SurveyMonkey online tool. The survey link was sent to 492 of our 588 members (we do not have email addresses for all PLF members), and we had 192 total responses, for an almost 40 percent response rate. Outstanding response! We did learn, however, that our survey was too long and pledge to do better the next time. We are considering additional much shorter surveys in the future, for example to ask members to prioritize public lands issues. To view the full survey results, including comments received or a summary of the survey results, visit our website at www.publicland.org, under the Membership link.

Survey Results. The most significant theme among the survey results is that members want the PLF to not only continue the activities it's already doing but to do even more. Unfortunately, the survey also showed that only a handful of members are willing to volunteer. As an “all-volunteer” organization, this is a problem.

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MEMBERSHIP SURVEY
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PLF is an "all-volunteer" organization. Would you be willing to help us? Check all areas of interest to you.

Here are some of the key results of the survey:

Advocacy. Nearly all respondents indicated they are very or somewhat interested in staying involved in BLM-related public land management issues and thought our advocacy activities are valuable to the public and BLM leadership. However, when it came to effectiveness of our advocacy activities, most respondents viewed the PLF as being only "somewhat effective." Suggestions were provided about how we can improve and some of these recommendations will be discussed at the Annual Meeting in Reno.

Communications. This part of the survey focused on member communications, local/social meetings, the Monitor newsletter, the PLF website, a member blog, and social media.

- About half of the respondents indicated they had communicated with a Board member on a public land advocacy issue. About 90% indicated that they believed their input was valued and that they had an opportunity to contribute to the PLF advocacy position.
- Only 15% of the respondents said they heard from their PLF State Representative "a lot." Clearly, this is an area for improvement. However, only 20% of respondents stated they would be "somewhat interested" in serving in this capacity.
- About half of the respondents said they meet with other BLM retirees in their state, and 75% of those indicated they meet a few times a year. Only a third said they would be very or somewhat interested in organizing and leading local PLF activities.
- About 90% of the respondents felt that a blog or member's forum would be helpful in sharing thoughts and ideas, although interest in participating was a bit less. Good news: we have initiated development of a PLF Members Forum through our website contractor. Stay tuned!
- Looking at our social media use by members, 45% said they follow PLF on one or more of our social media platforms; 55% do not. Of those that do, the vast majority followed PLF’s Facebook page.
- Over 50% of the respondents were satisfied with the PLF website content and some 44% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. There were many favorable comments about the website’s redesign, but there is concern that the content is somewhat stale and that we should include more articles by and about our members.
- Nearly all respondents were satisfied with the Monitor. Similar to comments about the website, there were several suggestions about adding more articles by and about members and shifting

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MEMBERSHIP SURVEY  
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- detailed information (such as annual meeting information) from the Monitor to the website. As for continuing to print and mail the Monitor, versus going “all digital”, members were just about evenly split. So, we’re going to continue to offer both.

Membership. Members were also asked to rank the PLF’s multiple activities in terms of importance to them. The top three activities were advocacy, publishing the Monitor, and maintaining the website. Social activities were viewed as least-important.

- A majority of members supported the PLF in facilitating mentoring activities at BLM offices or to current BLM employees.
- About 40% indicated they had attended a PLF annual meeting over the last five years.
- Members were asked what the PLF could do to enhance benefits of membership. We received many suggestions and the Board will be discussing them during the Annual Meeting in Reno.
- We received many suggestions on membership recruitment, the main one being to do more to reach out to newly-retired BLM employees. However, it is a challenge since the BLM cannot provide information about the PLF that could connote some form of government endorsement. In addition, the BLM cannot provide the PLF with contact information for new retirees as that would violate the Privacy Act. In short, we need our members to help us in identifying and recruiting new members!
- We asked what the PLF could do to make PLF membership more useful and relevant to you. The Board will review the individual responses and suggestions at the Annual Meeting in Reno.

Demographics. We learned that:
- Some 86% of the respondents have 30 or more years of federal service.
- Some 64% have 30 or more years of BLM service.
- Members were asked about their last position grade before they retired. Data shows most grades were between GS-12 and SES, indicating that recruitment efforts could be improved for lower-graded retirees.

CAN YOU HELP THE PLF?

As an “all-volunteer” organization, the PLF through its valued members aims to carry out multiple activities ranging from national-level advocacy on public land management issues to facilitating social and volunteer activities like National Public Lands Day on a local level. The Membership Survey asked respondents to indicate if they could help PLF by volunteering their time and expertise among various roles and topics. Unfortunately, since our survey was conducted anonymously, we have no way of linking survey data with individual respondents. Here’s where we need your help:

- Supporting advocacy activities as a Subject Matter Expert
- Running for the Board of Directors
- Serving as a PLF State Representative
- Serving on one or more working Committees (Committee list is posted on PLF website)
- Writing articles for the Monitor and the website
- Assisting in hosting the Annual Meeting
- Helping with fundraising
- Posting content to social media
- Technical assistance including IT/databases/ Microsoft Office 365 administration, Website/ WordPress, the Monitor/desktop publishing.

We emailed members asking those who are interested in volunteering to step forward and contact Beau McClure at vprops@publicland.org. We want to reiterate our request through this Monitor. All PLF members are encouraged to volunteer. So, take a minute and email Beau letting him know how you would like to help.

Do We Have Your Current Email Address?

Please help us keep our records current. It’s easy to do on our website at:

www.publicland.org >Membership>Update Membership Information.

Annual Dues

This is also a reminder that Annual Dues were due in January and that some members have not paid their 2019 dues. Please promptly pay your dues to avoid being dropped from our membership rolls.
REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS FOR PLF'S LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARDS

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, 2019. Winners will be determined at the PLF Board of Directors meeting in Reno, Nevada, 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 administered by the BLM. Organizations and individuals outside of government are often the catalysts for demonstrating effective approaches for achieving good stewardship of these lands and resources. Good stewardship may be defined as an ethic that embodies cooperative planning and management of resources by agencies, organizations, communities and others actively engaged to prevent loss of resources and facilitate their improvement in the interest of long-term sustainability. PLF’s Landscape Stewardship Award honors the work done by private citizens/groups 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](http://www.publicland.org) > About > Awards > Landscape Stewardship Awards. Please send nominations by August 1, 2019, by email to dmari@publicland.org.

REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS FOR PLF'S LIFETIME SERVICE AWARDS

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](http://www.publicland.org) > About > Awards > Awards to BLM Managers and Employees > Award Criteria.

If you want to nominate someone, please send the nomination and endorsement by August 1, 2019 to Maggie Wyatt, Chair, Lifetime Service Awards Committee, 2523 Falls View Circle, Grand Junction, Colorado 81505-1073; or preferably by email to 51booklover@gmail.com.

GEORGE LEA FOUNDER’S SCHOLARSHIPS

Jill Young, attending Western Colorado University, and Dylan Stewart, attending the University of Arizona, were selected by the PLF to receive the 2019-2020 George Lea Founder’s Scholarship Awards.

Jill is a Master’s-level graduate student at Western Colorado University studying Environmental Manage-
GEORGE LEA FOUNDER'S SCHOLARSHIPS
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ment with emphasis in Integrated Public Land Management (IPLM). Jill chose the (IPLM) track “...because I care deeply about our environment, especially public lands.” Her research focus includes applying concepts in ecosystem ecology, fire science and soil science to better inform management strategies on public lands. As part of her research, Jill will collaborate with other research scientists in Siberia, Russia focusing on ecosystem ecology in the arctic region, as well as North America.

Jill Young

Dylan is a 2019 graduate with a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Arizona in Natural Resource Management. He will enter Auburn University in the fall, working toward a Master’s degree in wildlife biology. While raising a young daughter and maintaining a high grade point average, he has been involved in a number of volunteer activities, including with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the National Park Service, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, the Wildlife Society (AWC), and the Arizona Fish and Wildlife Society (UA). Dylan eventually would like to work “...for an agency like the BLM or USFWS. Both agencies have a reputation of having a strong land ethic.”

Twelve students from 10 universities and colleges in eight states applied for the 2019-2020 scholarships, which is the sixth year of the program. Each of the applicants was well-qualified, making for a challenging selection process. Each application was independently reviewed and rated by the selection committee members Ray Brady, Mike Ferguson, and David Stout.

BLM HERITAGE HERO AWARD

The PLF would like to congratulate Connie Stone, retired BLM archaeologist, for receiving on April 3, 2019, the BLM Heritage Hero Award. The BLM Heritage Hero Award is presented annually to BLM employees, volunteers, or project partners who have provided significant support for the cultural heritage, history, paleontological resources, and tribal consultation or museum collections programs. The award highlights the outstanding work of Heritage Heroes and brings to life the stories that provide a model for preservation stewardship.

Connie Stone retired from the BLM in 2012 with over 24 years of federal service. Connie started her federal career as a temporary, working several years periodically while completing her dissertation for her Ph. D. in Anthropology from Arizona State University in 1984. In 1991, following the completion of her studies, Connie was hired into a permanent position as an archeologist with the Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Office, Division of Lands and Renewable Resources. During her career, Connie also served as the Agua Fria Monument Manager. Much of Connie’s research, knowledge, and words were included in the Presidential Proclamation that established the Monument.

In addition to Connie’s renowned service as an archaeologist, she excelled in other responsibilities for the BLM. At various times in her career Connie served as Assistant Field Manager and Acting Manager of the Hassayampa Field Office. Connie also served in the critical position of planning team lead for the Bradshaw-Harquahala and Agua Fria National Monument Resource Management Plans. Her diligence and leadership were essential in getting those plans drafted and approved.

Connie’s contributions to the BLM Cultural Heritage Program included publication of Cultural Resource Series Monograph No. 1 Deceptive Desolation: Prehistory of the Sonoran Desert in West Central Arizona; Monograph No. 5, People of the Desert, Canyons and Pines: Prehistory of the Patayan Country in West Central Arizona; and Monograph No. 6, The Linear Oasis: Managing Cultural Resources Along the Lower Colorado River. These regional overviews are considered classics among Arizona archaeologists, and remain widely-used and cited in archaeological studies and land-use decisions.

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BLM HERITAGE HERO AWARD
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During her career, Connie earned the respect and appreciation of virtually everyone who had the good fortune to work with her. Connie’s lifelong contributions to federal and public archaeology and historic preservation are many and varied. She is recognized for her professionalism, intimate knowledge of the prehistory and history of Arizona, and dedication to doing the best science possible.

The respect Connie garnered outside of the BLM is reflected in her receipt of the 2012 Arizona Governor’s Heritage Preservation Honor. That award was given for Connie’s lifelong achievements and contribution to Arizona archaeology and historic preservation. Even in retirement, Connie remains dedicated to preservation and Arizona archaeology having served on the Governor’s Archaeology Advisory Commission, which advises the State Historic Preservation Office on a variety of archaeological issues important to Arizona. And as can be expected, Connie remains committed to the Agua Fria National Monument as a member of the Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument and conducts annual tours of the Monument for members of Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho. Jack celebrated his 100th birthday on April 2, 2019 at a special event in his honor at the Boise Interagency Fire Center. Jack’s storied career began in 1946 in Rawlins, Wyoming. He worked in several Western states working in and around the Rangeland Management discipline. He’s always had an interest in fire management and its role in rangeland and forest management. The work in those early years in and around the fire program lead him to believe there was a better way to cooperate and collaborate on firefighting efforts. As his career progressed, he had an opportunity to lead the BLM’s National fire apparatus at the Boise Interagency Fire Center. During his tenure and leadership many changes where made that resulted in much improved cooperation and collaboration within the Interior fire family and eventually with the Forest Service fire family as well. One of his favorite stories revolves around the “Green Line” in the Fire Cache warehouse in Boise. East of the line on the floor was fire equipment belonging to the USFS, and West of the line was Interior firefighting equipment. Sharing of these scarce resources was never considered in the “old” days, due largely to political/funding prohibitions. See his views on this topic in the youtube video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VCa6TBaf7Kc.

Interviewing Jack was a real pleasure for me. Jack’s mind remains pretty darn good for his age and the stories he can tell abound. Jack is a very humble man who sheds accolades and instead remarks on all the great people he had the pleasure of working with. One of his favorite sayings is “all of us are better together than any of us individually.” Jack has certainly lived his life and career by those words. We can all learn a lesson from this humble but remarkable man.

Editor’s Note: Jack joined the BLM just two years after the agency was created from the Grazing Service and the General Land Office and he recognized the struggles the agency would have in competing with the other federal land management agencies like the Forest Service and the National Park Service. He was instrumental in putting his managerial and political talents to work to change things over time. In fact, in addition to getting a degree in range management he got a degree in forestry and a Master’s degree in public administration so he could level the playing field with the managers from the other agencies. BLM leadership initially struggled to establish itself as an equal partner with the Forest Service at the Boise Interagency Fire Center (BIFC) and Jack fought hard to establish BIFC

JACK WILSON INTERVIEW
By John Fend, PLF Director-at-Large

On April 1, 2019, I had the pleasure of conducting an interview with Jack Wilson, retired BLM professional and a moving force behind the National
as a true national interagency clearinghouse for wildfire operations and the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) was officially established in 1993. When Jack initially took over at NIFC there were only 17 people on staff and when he retired it had grown to 108 employees and now there are some 650 employees. Jack's name is prominently displayed on the entrance to the NIFC headquarters in recognition of his vision and efforts to establish a foundation for the BLM and the interagency fire community for the future.

ACTING DIRECTOR – CASEY HAMMOND

Interior Secretary David Bernhardt on May 11, 2019, signed a secretarial order that appointed Casey Hammond to the position of "exercising authority" of the Director, or Acting Director. Hammond is currently the principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management within the Department. Hammond replaces Brain Steed as the Acting BLM Director, who was appointed by Utah Governor Gary Herbert in April 2019 and confirmed by the Utah Senate in May 2019 to serve as the Executive Director of the Utah Department of Natural Resources. A veteran of Capitol Hill, Hammond worked as a senior adviser for Republicans on the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations and was part of the political transition team at BLM with the new administration. After the transition, he served as a special assistant to the Interior Secretary and has served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary since September 2017.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – NICK DOUGLAS

The BLM on June 24, 2019, appointed Nick Douglas as the Assistant Director for Energy, Minerals and Realty Management in the BLM Headquarters office in Washington, D.C. Nick replaces Mike Nedd who was promoted to Deputy Director of Operations in February 2019. Nick has experience in managing oil and gas and mineral development on federal lands with both the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service, including his most recent job with the FS as the Director of the Office of Minerals and Geology Management. He served as Manager of the BLM Anchorage District and Field Office in Alaska from 1995 to 2000 and later served as an energy and minerals senior advisor in the BLM Washington Office. Prior to his federal career, Nick worked in the oil and gas industry for 18 years.

MONTANA STATE DIRECTOR

JOHN MEHLHOFF

The BLM on April 3, 2019, announced the appointment of John Mehlhoff as the Director of the BLM Montana/Dakotas State Office. Mehlhoff had most recently served as Program Director for coordination, enforcement, valuation and appeals in the Department’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR). Prior to joining ONRR in 2014 he had served as the Associate Director of the BLM Colorado State Office and prior to that in a variety of staff and line manager positions in Montana, Wyoming, Washington D.C., Oklahoma and Colorado. John is a North Dakota native from a fourth generation mining, farming and ranching family and earned a petroleum engineering degree from Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology.
BLM STATE DIRECTORS

With the continued changes in the leadership positions of the BLM, we would like to again provide an update on the current State Directors that provide the day-to-day on-the-ground management for our public lands. The following are the current State Directors for each of the BLM State Offices:

Alaska State Office – Chad Padgett
Arizona State Office – Raymond Suazo
California State Office – Joe Stout (Acting)
Colorado State Office – Jaime Connell
Eastern States Office – Karen Mouritsen
Idaho State Office – John Ruhs
Montana State Office – John Mehlhoff
Nevada State Office – Jon Raby
New Mexico State Office – Tim Spisak
OR/WA State Office – Theresa Hanley (Acting)
Utah State Office – Ed Roberson
Wyoming State Office – Mary Jo Rugwell

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE – ROGER HASKINS

The PLF was asked in May 2019 to assist the BLM, the U.S. Department of State, and the U.S. Department of Commerce in identifying a retired BLM geologist or minerals specialist who could participate in an international technical assistance program and uranium mining workshop in Lima, Peru for the Government of Peru. This workshop was part of an ongoing technical assistance program that the Department of Commerce, Commercial Law Development Program Office, has been carrying out jointly with the Peruvian Institute of Nuclear Energy and the Ministry of Energy and Mines to develop a regulatory framework and standards for uranium mining in Peru. The PLF reached out to our membership and was able to make arrangements with Roger Haskins, retired BLM geologist in Virginia, to provide this assistance. Roger traveled to Lima, Peru, with expenses covered by the U.S. Department of Commerce, and participated at the “Workshop on the Technical Regulatory Framework Applicable to Uranium Mining” on May 16-17, 2019. Roger made presentations during the workshop on the characteristics of the regulatory framework for uranium mining in the U.S. and led a discussion of recommendations for mining regulations related to the risks and mitigation in uranium mining. Roger’s participation and contributions were well received and we thank him for his willingness at the last minute to travel to Peru and represent the PLF as a subject matter expert for the BLM. Our hats are off to a job well done by Roger.

EMPIRE RANCH CELEBRATION (ARIZONA)
By Dean Bibles

On March 23, 2019, a Celebration commemorating the stabilization and preservation of the historic 1870’s Empire Ranch headquarters house was held at the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area near Sonoita, AZ. I was honored to be one of the guest speakers along with former Congressman Jim Kolbe, Pima County Supervisor Steve Christi, and BLM Tucson Field Manager Jayme Lopez. Around 200 people were present for the day’s activities.

This historic Arizona ranch was acquired by BLM through a land exchange in 1988 to address several concerns from the local public. Many people in the two counties on which the Ranch lies were concerned about the impact of the approval of zoning for some 35,000 homes and five resorts in the area. Also, county officials were worried that these developments would cause flooding downstream in Tucson. My interest as the BLM State Director in acquiring the Ranch was, in part, to extend a wildlife corridor from Mexico through Arizona for wildlife. BLM Director Burford was strongly opposed to the acquisition. Congressman Jim (Continued on Page 12.)
EMPIRE RANCH CELEBRATION

(Continued from Page 11.)

Kolbe, who was very supportive, was able to clear Burford’s opposition after touring the area with Henri Bisson, then the BLM Phoenix District Manager. Following BLM’s acquisition of the Ranch, Congressman Kolbe drove through legislation creating the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. To appreciate some of the challenges of acquiring the Ranch, it’s helpful to know that Director Burford told me that while he wouldn’t block acquisition of the Ranch, that he wouldn’t lift his little finger to help me if I got into trouble on the exchange!

The Empire Ranch is a biological treasure with unique and rare vegetative communities including five of the rarest habitat types in the American Southwest: cienegas (marshlands), cottonwood willow riparian forests, sacaton grasslands, mesquite bosques, and semi-desert grasslands. The Ranch has also been a place in America’s cinematic history. Actors John Wayne, Barbara Stanwick, Charlton Heston, Paul Newman, Lee Marvin, Kirk Douglas, William Holden, Burt Lancaster, Shelley Winters, Jennifer Jones, Steve McQueen, Gregory Peck, Spencer Tracy, Jimmy Stewart and many others were filmed in or near the Empire Ranch. These classic films include “Red River,” “Duel in the Sun,” “Hombre,” “Winchester 73” and “The Big Country.” The Empire Ranch remains a working cattle ranch, complete with an enchanting old headquarters building, which was recognized on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. The Ranch is now managed under an innovative rangeland management style unique to the area. The Celebration allowed an opportunity to recognize the many people whose time and financial resources make this all possible. This includes Marlyn and Bonnie Jones, a number of former and present BLMers and many active volunteers. The Empire Ranch Foundation, through cooperative work with the BLM brought this Historic Ranch to life and continually assists in attracting and helping visitors enjoy the property. The ribbon cutting for the Celebration activities recognized this cooperative relationship between the Foundation and BLM with the honors performed by Jayme Lopez, BLM Tucson Field Manager, and Faith Boice, President of the Empire Ranch Foundation.

DEDICATION OF WILD & SCENIC RIVER STAMPS

By Jerry Magee – BLM California and Oregon (1976-2018)

On May 21, 2019, the USPS dedicated 12 Wild & Scenic River stamps at a ceremony in Tumalo State Park just north of Bend, OR. Three of the stamps featured photographs taken by the BLM’s own “Photographer Laureate,” Bob Wick. Bob’s photograph of Steelhead Falls on the Deschutes Wild & Scenic River graced the event program and posters, and played a critical role in the selection of this national dedication site with the Deschutes River and dramatic basalt cliffs as a backdrop.

Bob Wick was introduced to the more than 100 attendees at the event in the opening remarks by the Master of Ceremonies, Brad Chalfant (Executive Director, Deschutes Land Trust). The official stamp dedication was led by Joe Corbett, Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President of the USPS. He defied the oncoming storm clouds by sporting an “Oregon! Pacific Wonderland” sweatshirt that he purchased before the event while exploring the rivers and public lands of Central Oregon.

The stamp release was prompted by last year’s 50th Anniversary of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, and the program featured speakers representing the

(Continued on Page 13.)
breadth of government agency and non-governmental organization partnerships involved in nominating, designating, and managing the nation’s Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSRs). One speaker quoted Senators Wyden and Merkley as claiming that, with passage of their Oregon Wildlands Act as part of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, Oregon protects more WSR segments than any other state (i.e., close to 70 of the nation’s more than 200 WSRs).

Speakers from the four primary federal agencies charged with protecting and managing our Wild and Scenic Rivers (the BLM, NPS, FWS, and USFS) placed the national system into agency-specific context. Linda Clark, Acting BLM Oregon-Washington Associate State Director, spoke about the BLM’s role in stewarding our increasing share of the WSR System, and noted that BLM Oregon managed the most WSR segments, although not the most miles, of any BLM State.

Bob Wick, BLM photographer

The Master of Ceremonies concluded the event just in time before a rain storm began, to remind us of where wild and scenic rivers come from, and the audience raced for the tent shelters—one conveniently housing the USPS’s “first day of issue” stamp sales and the other shielding the agency/organization information booths. The speakers and photographers lined up at a table in one of the shelters to sign attendee’s programs and stamped program envelopes with first day of issue cancellations. For a short overview of the dedication ceremony and associated activities (including catching former BLM WO and current NPS employee, Bob Ratcliffe, purchasing stamps), go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z_cV5iCGJvg.

At the request of the PLF, I had the pleasure of interviewing Bob Wick the following morning at Pioneer Park in Bend, OR, with the Deschutes River as a backdrop. In addition to providing background stories for the three photographs chosen by the USPS for this stamp series, Bob answered questions ranging from how he first became interested in photography to what he felt were his most memorable experiences photographing BLM lands. The video interview will be made available to PLF membership shortly.

Bob Wick also autographed three panels of Wild and Scenic River Stamps and three individual commemorative postcards with stamps featuring his photographs. These items will be available for the silent auction at this year’s Annual Meeting in Reno, NV. Bob will also be giving a presentation at the Annual Meeting on his experiences photographing public lands. The BLM is lucky to have, and to celebrate the talents of, such stand-out employees as Bob Wick.

IN MEMORIUM

The PLF is committed to never forgetting the dedicated employees of the BLM who have left us. We do so on our website’s Memorial Wall and by publishing names of those who passed away in the Monitor. Until recently, Bob Conquergood has performed this important work and we thank him for all he has done. Bob is no longer serving in that capacity. If you have a death to report, please email us at obits@publicland.org, preferably with a link to or copy of an obituary. In addition, we know that many of our Facebook followers are also members of the separate “Remembering BLM” private Facebook group. Please be aware that the private Facebook group is not affiliated with the PLF. You can rely on the PLF to keep you informed of topical news on the public PLF Facebook page, our website, other social media sites and the Monitor newsletter.

Note: Putting together the Memorium list in the Monitor and maintaining the Memorial Wall on the PLF website takes a lot of work by PLF volunteers. If you find errors, or if you know of something we may have missed, we apologize, and will correct the record.

(Continued on Page 14.)
IN MEMORIAM
(Continued from Page 13.)

If you have concerns, please let Ray Brady know at rbrady@publicland.org.

William Amorous on April 20, 2019, in Santa Fe, NM. “Wild Bill” received a Bachelor’s degree from the University of New Mexico Architecture and Arts School and served in the U.S. Army. Bill worked for the NM State Highway Department and the BLM, and helped found the Hondo Volunteer Fire Department.

Louis B. Bellesi on March 26, 2019, in Colorado Springs, CO. Lou started with the GLO in 1959 as a Land Examiner in Los Angeles, CA and later in Bakersfield, CA and Redding, CA. In 1965 he transferred to the BLM DSC as a Realty Specialist and in 1981 to the Washington Office as a Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist, which later became Chief, Branch of Realty in the Division of Lands and Realty. Lou later became the Chief of Tech Services at the ID State Office and the Deputy State Director of Operations. Lou retired in 1985.

Kenneth Cordell Boyer on May 8, 2019, in Yuma, AZ. Ken’s career with the BLM started in Monticello, UT in 1962 and continued with jobs in California, Oregon, and finally back to Utah in 1978. He retired from the BLM in 1995.

Stanley D. Butzer on December 24, 2018, in Boise, ID. Stanley served in the Korean War, graduated from the New York Ranger School, received a Forestry degree from the State University of New York, and a Masters degree from Colorado State University. He had a long career with the BLM, including District Manager in Redding, CA.

Bridget Kobe Clayton on March 26, 2019, in Grand Junction, CO. Bridget began her career with the BLM as a Natural Resource specialist when she and her husband, Creed, a FWS biologist, went to work in the oil and gas pilot office in Glenwood Springs, CO (2006-2009). She was the Assistant Field Manager for Lands and Minerals in the Grand Junction Field Office (2010-2012) and co-lead on the Greater Sage Grouse RMP Amendments for the Northwest CO (2013-2016) before being promoted as the BLM Colorado Sage Grouse coordinator (2017-2019).

Douglas L. Coalson on March 19, 2019, in Las Cruces, NM. Doug was a Rangeland Management Specialist in the Cabrillo Resource Area and then the Las Cruces District Office for several years.

Orville (Dee) D’Masters on January 31, 2019, in OR. Dee worked in road maintenance for the Coos Bay District and was caretaker for his previous job site after his retirement for several years.

Richard A. ‘Rick’ Dickman on April 24, 2019, in Billings, MT. He was the Branch Chief, Records in the MT State Office.

Richard Dworsky on November 5, 2018, in Steamboat Springs, CO. He served 15 years in AK offices.

Helga Christin Eakon on May 5, 2018, in Anchorage, AK. Helga was born in Unalakleet, AK and was a lifelong resident of Alaska, only leaving briefly for Madison, WI in 1978. She attended the University of Alaska Fairbanks and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Anthropology. In 1978, she received a Juris Doctor from the University of Wisconsin Law School. She worked in Alaska at the BLM, FWS, and the Native Village of Unalakleet.

Beverly Jeanne “BJ” Earle on March 12, 2019, in Billings, MT. BJ earned a degree in Archaeology from Brigham Young University. After graduation she joined the BLM as an archaeologist and served in Dillon and Miles City, MT and in Buffalo, WY. She worked on the bureau’s coal leasing program, and from 1986-2010 lived and worked in the Hole-in-the-Wall (Johnson County War) area. BJ was a talented artist and following retirement was drawn to Livingston, MT. She maintained her professional interests by participating in local historic and archeological society meetings, was a member of the Museum of the Rockies, and volunteered for Livingston’s Yellowstone Gateway Museum.

Tyler Ewald on June 10, 2019, in Reno, NV. Tyler was a Firefighter on the Silver State Interagency Hotshot Crew, Carson City District Office.

O’doll Anderson Frandsen on April 24, 2019, in Alpine, Utah. He served in World War II on the European Front and was awarded bronze battle stars for the Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, and Ardennes campaigns and the Purple Heart medal for injuries sustained during the Battle of the Bulge. O’doll attended Utah State University, School of Forestry, majoring in Range Management. After graduation he taught at Carbon College in Price, UT for three years and then went to work for the BLM, where he spent the remainder of his career. O’doll started his career in Price, UT then moved to Vernal, UT, Gooding, ID, and Idaho Falls, ID. He was the District Manager for 25 years in Vernal, Gooding, and Idaho Falls. His final position was Deputy State Director in the Utah State Office.

Fabian Gomez on June 7, 2019, in Tucson, AZ. Fabian was a Firefighter with the BLM, USFS, and FWS, and on the Silver (Continued on Page 15.)
City Hotshot Crew, Silver City, NM.

Marvin Hammersmark on August 9, 2018, in Ballantine, MT. Marvin started his career with the BLM in 1963 in Baker City, OR. Marvin's career included various management positions with the BLM in Baker City, OR; Ely, NV; Lakeview, OR and Rawlins, WY. Marvin retired from the BLM in 1992.

William "Bill" Herbst on November 5, 2018 in Bolivar, MO. Bill was a Cadastral Surveyor for Eastern States Office, Wyoming State Office and DSC and surveyed in 18 different states in his 34-year BLM career. Bill was awarded the DOI Superior Service Award in 1996 for his outstanding contributions to the cadastral survey program.

James Clifton Hobbs on March 7, 2019, in Amarillo, TX. James spent much of his life employed by the BLM in Shiprock, NM and retired from the Excel Helium Plant at Masterson, as Plant Operations Supervisor, after twenty-eight years in December 1992.

Bernard "Berny" Warren Hostrop on December 6, 2018, in Warrenton, VA. Berny was the Chief Land Surveyor for the FS from 1972-73 and the Chief Land Surveyor for the BLM from 1974-1991.

Anna Laurelle Hughes, on May 5, 2019, in Alamo, NV. Laurelle spent a long career with the BLM in UT, where she advanced from a Clerk Typist to a Realty Specialist position. After spending most of her life prior to retirement in her hometown of Cleveland, UT, Laurelle moved to Alamo, NV where she took an active role in the community.

Albert Daniel (Dan) Hutchinson on April 16, 2019, in Idaho Falls, ID. Dan grew up in Logan, UT and Rockland, ID. He moved to Salmon, ID and found work for the Forest Service for several years and later retired from the BLM.

Beverly Lanfair on May 18, 2019, in Meridian, ID. Beverly served in Administrative Services in several ID offices.

Pearl Esther Lee on March 3, 2019, in Coeur d'Alene, ID. Pearl joined the Coeur d'Alene District Office as a clerk steno but soon moved to the Spokane District Office, WA, where she rose to Administrative Officer and retired after 25 years.

Jack Lloyd on April 11, 2019, in Rock Springs, WY. Jack graduated from Utah State University with a Master's Degree in History and was a United States Navy veteran. He was employed as a History teacher in public schools for thirty-three years and retired in 2001. He was a part-time summer employee for the BLM in the maintenance department.

Thomas B. Madsen on June 19, 2008, in Billings, MT. Thomas was a Range Conservationist, Ranger and Special Agent in multiple offices.

Paul Pletcher Martin II on May 13, 2019, in Twin Falls, ID. Paul was an Eagle Scout and a graduate of Franklin and Marshall College with a BA degree in English. He also attended Utah State University and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Science and a Masters degree in Outdoor Recreation. He worked for the BLM as an Outdoor Recreation Planner, as an Environmental Specialist, and as a Natural Resource Specialist. He later moved to the Department of Energy as an Outdoor Recreation Specialist until his retirement.

Larry Orvan Maxfield on June 4, 2019, in West Jordon, UT. Larry graduated from Utah State University with a BS in Range Management. He worked with the BLM for 35 years and as an EMT for 10 years.

Ada Fern Rasmussen McCann on May 5, 2019, in South Jordan, UT. Fern worked for the BLM in Salt Lake City, Denver, and Menlo Park where she made life-long friends.

Timothy McCauley in June 2019, in Romney, WV. He was the Helibase Captain for the Helitack Crew in the Eagle Lake Field Office.

Roger James McCormack on March 20, 2019, in Reno, NV. Roger was a Wildlife Biologist in the ID State Office (the first State Office Wildlife Biologist in BLM), Wildlife Biologist in the Washington Office, Director of Operations in the Washington Office, and Associate State Director in the NV State Office.

Willis O. Nevin on April 18, 2019, in Coos Bay, OR. Willis worked for the BLM in Coos Bay for many years.

James Pflucker on June 3, 2019, in Lakewood, CO. Jim graduated from Metropolitan State College with a Bachelors degree in history and was a computer programmer for the BLM until his retirement in 2012.

David R. Pierce on June 1, 2019, in Missoula, MT. Dave attended the University of Montana. He was a smokejumper in OR from 1965 to 1966, a smokejumper in MT from 1967 to 1968, and a BLM Alaska smokejumper from 1971 to 1980. From 1980 until his retirement in 1998, Dave worked in the (Continued on Page 16.)
IN MEMORIAM
(Continued from Page 15.)

National Smokejumper Technical Position at the USFS Missoula Technology & Development Center.

Rev. Jerry Lyle Pinkerton Sr on March 14, 2019, in North Wilksboro, NC. Jerry spent 30 years in Cadastral Survey working his way up to Deputy State Director when he retired.

Carman Prisco on April 7, 2019, in Reno, NV.

James I. Rabe on May 24, 2109, in Portland, Oregon. After graduating from the University of Michigan Forestry School, he came to Roseburg, OR in 1963 to work for the BLM as a Forester.

Jerry Dale Reynolds on May 7, 2019, in Elko, NV. Jerry was born in Elko in 1934 and briefly attended the University of Nevada – Reno before returning to Elko where he was employed by the BLM. He was elected as Elko County Recorder in 1974 and was re-elected eight times before retiring in 2010.

Thomas “Tom” Roessler on August 17, 2018, in Hillsboro, OR. Tom served in the United States Navy from 1948 to 1952 and after his military career attended junior college and later the University of Minnesota. He graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in forestry and had a life-long career with the BLM, retiring in 1986.

Michael Lee Rose on April 15, 2019, in Tucson, AZ. Mike began his BLM career in 1968 as an Emergency Firefighter in the Anchorage District Office, AK then moved up to Loadmaster and then Warehouse Supervisor and Aviation Manager before moving to the Alaska State Office as Safety Manager. He retired in 2005.

Donald John Seibert on February 22, 2019, in Land O Lakes, FL. Donald served in the Air Force and attended the University of Montana earning a degree in Wildlife Biology and a Master’s degree from Murray State University. He worked summers with the Craighead brothers assisting in their research on grizzly bears. Donald worked for the BLM in several Rocky Mountain states and in Washington, DC. After retiring he took an executive position with the Boy Scouts, working in Idaho and Montana. He was active in a number of conservation organizations.

Martin Kenneth Smith on April 9, 2019, in Amarillo, TX. Marty worked in the Amarillo Field Office, TX as a Systems Engineer at the BLM’s Helium Plant.

Ronald Smith on March 28, 2019, in Phoenix, AZ. Ron began his career with the USGS in Los Angeles before accepting a position with the BLM in Susanville, CA as a Minerals Specialist and later transferred to Winnemucca, NV with the BLM as a Mining Specialist. He continued his minerals career with the BLM in Hollister, CA in the Lands and Minerals office, and completed his BLM career in the Phoenix District Office. His greatest pride was volunteering for the Phoenix District’s Recreation Program for 13 years after retirement maintaining and checking recreation sites. Ron was the District’s recreation ambassador and was the friendly face of the agency for many visitors.

Grace Chizuko Tanaka on March 2, 2019, in Billings, MT. Grace worked in administration at several BLM Wyoming District Offices including Worland, Buffalo, Casper, and Rawlins where she was the Administrative Officer and retired there in 2008.

John V Vest on April 9, 2019, in Denver, CO. John worked 40 years at the Denver Service Center rising to supervisor accountant in the Branch of General Accounting.

Asko Ilmari Virtanen on January 31, 2019 in Ballard, MT. Asko worked in the BLM Montana State Office for many years solving computer problems.

Jacob Sheldon Weil on April 15, 2019, in Alexandria, VA. Sheldon worked for the BLM in Medford, OR; Coos Bay, OR; Portland, OR; and Washington, D.C. He also worked for the Office of the Secretary in Yuma, AZ and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation in Washington, D.C.


James Allen White on March 13, 2019, in North Bend, OR. Jim graduated from Michigan Tech University in the early 1960’s and went to work soon after in the BLM Coos Bay Office. He worked his whole career in Coos Bay as a forester, timber sale contract administrator, and engineer. He retired in the late 1990’s and stayed in the Coos Bay area.

Gerald “Mike” Worley on May 5, 2019, in Fairbanks, AK. Mike worked for the Arctic District and Field Offices in Alaska as a Realty Specialist, retiring from the BLM in 2010. Mike had a tremendous depth of institutional knowledge and worked closely with the North Slope Tribes, Native Corporations and individual allottees, and earned a high level of respect with BLM stakeholders. (Continued on Page 17.)
IN MEMORIAM
(Continued from Page 16.)

Ronald Joseph Woychak on May 4, 2019, in Escondido, CA. Ron was a graduate of Humboldt State University and retired after 35 years with the federal fire service, most recently with the BLM. Ron was also the owner of his own business, Firewise 2000, Inc., which provided consultation services for wildland fire protection planning for residential and commercial properties in the wildland-urban interface.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

The PLF would like to provide a special thanks to Mary Kay Bellesi for her recent donation of $5,000 to support the George Lea Funders Scholarship in memory of her late husband Lou Bellesi. This is the second year that the Bellesi family has donated $5,000 to the Scholarship fund. Each year the PLF awards two $5,000 scholarships to deserving students pursuing degrees in natural resources management or public land management. The generous donations provided by the Bellesi family will provide important financial assistance through the PLF to deserving future natural resource or land management professionals.

Received from: In Memory of:

Mary Kay Bellesi Louis Bellesi
(Scholarship Fund)

David Jones Louis Bellesi
(Scholarship Fund)

Beau McClure Louis Bellesi
(Scholarship Fund)

Tom Allen Charles Hancock

Sonia Cox Joyce Hastey and
Holden Brink

Hank Hammersmark Marvin

Linda Hofman Hammersmark
Irving and Jeanie
Senzel (Student Congress)

Marv LeNoue Frank Edwards and
Chris Vosler

David Mari Donald Selbert

DONATIONS

You can make a designated donation by credit card on our website at www.publicland.org, or by check sent to the Public Lands Foundation, P.O. Box 7226, Arlington, VA 22207. In your transmittal, please make sure to mention that your donation is for the George Lea’s Founder’s Scholarship or for the Student Congress Fund. Remember, if you are making a donation in memory of someone 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.

General Fund
Christine Pitcairn-Wiley Gregg & Mary Simmons (3 times)

Scholarship Fund
Jules Tileston

Student Congress
Linda Hofman
Gary Marsh

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Monitor is what we make it and we encourage you to provide Letters to the Editor or provide other reviews and comments on articles included in your newsletter. It is important to hear from our membership, and if you like something or don’t like something, let us know. If you do send an email to the Editor, don’t be surprised if it winds up as a Letter to the Editor in the next edition of the Monitor. Please provide your comments to rbrady@publicland.org. In addition, members are encouraged to use the bhad@publicland.org email address to communicate with the PLF Board.

The Monitor generally reflects ongoing PLF activities, events, updates, awards, and information on former BLM employees. We encourage articles and discussions of issues by posting quality content that also provides a positive exposure of the goals, objectives and mission of the PLF. However, we need to take some precautions when posting information to the newsletter and other forms of social media to ensure appropriate rules of behavior. In keeping a positive experience for our members, we reserve the right to publish only comments, photos, and other material deemed appropriate by the PLF. We intend on maintaining a friendly and professional tone in the articles in the Monitor and any postings of Letters to the Editor. Thank you for your contributions to and interest in the Public Lands Foundation.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name ________________________________________
Address ______________________________________
City ____________ ST _____ Zip ________
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.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE - $350