It is not too early to mark your calendar and plan to attend the 2020 Public Lands Foundation Annual Meeting. This year, it will be held at the Holiday Inn in Rock Springs, Wyoming, September 15-18, 2020. The tentative theme for the meeting is “Wildlife Migration Corridors,” with a possible second theme addressing greater sage-grouse issues.

Members of the Board of Directors and others interested in attending the board meeting on Tuesday, September 15, should plan to arrive in Rock Springs on Monday, September 14. Wednesday, September 16, will consist of a BLM tour in the area and an evening barbecue. A full-day meeting to address the theme is planned for Thursday, September 17. A PLF banquet and silent auction will be held that evening. The Board of Directors will meet again on Friday morning through noon, September 18.

The Holiday Inn Rock Springs is located at 1675 Sunset Drive, Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901. We have reserved a block of rooms at a rate of $79.00 (plus taxes) per night for either Standard King or Standard Two Queen beds. Please make your reservations early and before the cutoff date of September 1, 2020 by calling 1-307-382-9200. Be sure to mention the Public Lands Foundation to receive the above-mentioned rate. This rate is good two days before and two days after our meeting dates, subject to availability.

This rate does not include breakfast. But, breakfast vouchers can be purchased for $5.00 per person upon check in or in the morning at the front desk before going to the restaurant. Check In is 3:00 p.m. Check Out is 11:00 a.m. Cancellation must be done 24 hours prior to arrival.

A round trip airport shuttle is complimentary at scheduled times. For additional hotel information go to www.holidayinn.com/rocksprings.

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 v pops@publicland.org, or by phone at (623) 587-7883.
The past year has been a year of change for our favorite agency, the Bureau of Land Management. The BLM is going through its biggest change since Reorganization Order No. 3: the establishment of BLMin 1946 from the General Land Office and the Grazing Service. Change can be good when it is well thought out and done for the right reasons. Unfortunately, the current change being implemented by BLM has not been well thought out and it is very questionable if it is being done for the right reasons.

The BLM is moving its headquarters out of the Nation’s Capital to Grand Junction, Colorado. Only about 60 employees would remain in Washington, D.C. to carry out the coordination work with the Interior Department, OMB, Congress, and other agencies and stakeholders that BLM works with on a day-to-day basis. The Department claims this will put decision making closer to the ground and the public with adequate information regarding the move. As was done in the mid-2000s when the Management-for-Excellence (M4E) reorganization was successfully accomplished. The PLF was received politely, but largely ignored. The PLF also testified before the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee during the FY 2020 appropriations hearings, and many of you wrote letters to your members of Congress. We increased our efforts when the reorganization plan was released on July 16, 2019 and it was clear the headquarters relocation was really a dismantling of the agency. A group of PLF Board members wrote a joint opinion piece published in Politico. The PLF ran a full-page ad in Politico, signed onto by several nonprofit groups that supported keeping a BLM presence in Washington. A copy of the full-page Politico ad is included as an insert in this edition of the Monitor.

As you can see, we have been very busy in the past several months trying to keep the BLM headquarters intact. This involved a lot of work by many people from PLF and support from other conservation organizations, professional societies, and sister retiree organizations. We received a financial assistance grant that helped defray the costs of travel and the Politico ad.

Congress did not stop or slow the move as we had hoped. However, the FY 2020 Appropriations Act did not give BLM the added funding requested, keeping funding for the move at the FY 2019 level of $5.9 million. They also expressed their displeasure with the Department’s lack of transparency and added the following paragraph requiring monthly meetings with the Appropriations committees.

Bureau of Land Management, Reorganization. – The Department has not fulfilled its obligation to fully communicate the organizational and financial details of the reorganization and relocation of the Bureau’s Washington, D.C. headquarters to Grand Junction, Colorado, agency stakeholders or the general public with adequate information regarding the move. Furthermore, it has not explained how it will sustain its operations and remain an effective land management agency following the anticipated loss of much of its senior management and the expected attrition of its workforce caused by the reorganization. The Department is therefore directed to begin monthly briefings with the Committees on Appropriations on the status of the reorganization, including an initial briefing explaining the Bureau’s plan for ensuring continuity of the agency’s operations and addressing the immediate impacts of likely staff shortages caused by the reorganization.

The reorganization is underway. The office space has been leased in Grand Junction and the relocation of leadership has started. The acting Director announced he would be in Grand Junction starting January 2, 2020. Management directed reassignments have been initiated to move most Washington Office staff to the many State Offices identified in the July 16 reorganization memo. At this time, we don’t have firm numbers on how many employees will actually report to their new duty stations, take new jobs, or resign. Many already left the agency and indications are that most Washington Office employees will leave the Bureau. All of this work could not be done without the support of PLF members and other retirees that contributed many hours of service to our organization. The PLF operates on a small budget and much of this work could not have been done without the generous donations made by dozens of PLF members and friends. Thank you!

The PLF will continue to monitor the reorganization and stay active on this issue. We ask that members remain vigilant and let us know of any issues that you notice arising from the reorganization.
The Public Lands Foundation is proud to present the 2018 Outstanding Public Lands Professional Award in the Managerial/Administrative Category to Jim Stovall, District Manager, Pecos District, Roswell, New Mexico.

Mr. Stovall has served as an integral leader in the BLM’s Pecos District for the past 13-plus years. He has guided the offices through Land Use Plan revisions and amendments. He has led the offices to their one-millionth improved acre with the RESTORE New Mexico initiative. He has led the implementation of a new Secretarial Order that allows for the co-development of Oil/Gas and Potash in a 500,000-acre area in southeastern New Mexico. He has pushed for giant leaps in technological innovation. He has also helped to put agreements in place that have fostered the long-term understanding of cultural resources in the area. During all of this effort, he has promoted environmentally responsible energy development in the busiest oil and gas offices in BLM.

Since around 2010, the Permian Basin has become one of the most active Oil and Gas basins in the United States, leading to a huge increase in Applications for Permit to Drill and Applications for Rights-of-Way in the Bureau of Land Management’s Pecos District Field Offices. This increased activity has demanded strong leadership to push for environmentally responsible energy development, while still allowing for the multiple use and sustained yield mission of the Bureau. Mr. Stovall has been critical to the success of the two Pecos District offices over the last 13-plus years he has served as a member of the District management team, and as District Manager for the past five years. During that time, he has created an environment that serves as a model of innovation, work output, and responsible land stewardship for other BLM offices.

Edward W. Shepard, President

The Public Lands Foundation is proud to present the 2019 Outstanding Public Lands Professional Award in the Technical/Operational Category to Paul Summers, a hydro-geologist at the BLM National Operations Center, Denver, Colorado.

Paul has had an outstanding 50-year career in BLM and is recognized as a national ground-water expert. Paul is a one of a kind expert in the scarce skill category whose work has had an enormous impact on multiple use decisions. He has quietly fostered a long-lasting appreciation of the importance of ground water-to-water dependent ecosystems in more arid landscapes.

Paul has demonstrated outstanding professionalism in addressing and resolving ground-water supply issues in remote areas of all 11 contiguous western states. The Washington Office has often relied on Paul’s expertise; most recently in the development of a BLM Water Resources Manual. When ground water issues emerge in Washington Office business, Paul, as the sole ground water expert in BLM, is typically consulted.

In 2018, Paul provided extensive ground-water expertise to Utah’s West Desert District in support of potassium lease development (Mineral Leasing Act). Paul’s contributions were critical to the assessment of impacts from pumping of the brines and in developing a hydrologic monitoring operations plan. Paul has also recently completed a report to document the application of a ground water flow model, which is important in development scenario modeling for Powder River Basin oil and gas production.

Throughout Paul’s career and in particular, during the past decade of escalating conflicts between water supply and resource development, Paul has demonstrated steady perseverance in assisting BLM line managers and specialists in improving their analysis and decisions that are complicated by the interplay of use authorizations, drought, climatic variation, and evolving water regulations.

Paul’s contributions to BLM multiple use analyses and alternatives have added value, technical rigor, and validity to BLM decisions and to the long-term sustainability of lands administered by BLM. In his modest and quiet manner, and with the heart of a teacher, Paul has quietly fostered a long-lasting appreciation throughout BLM of the importance of ground water to water dependent ecosystems in more arid landscapes.

Because of his commitment to public land management, the Public Lands Foundation recognizes Paul Summers with its Outstanding Public Lands Professional Award in the Technical/Operational category for 2019.

Edward W. Shepard, President
While that blanket’s a bond ‘tween saddle and horse, the Public lands, but on terrain rocky hard, sound sleep’s a daff dream. And these worn, rug-like wraps make covers.

Random stinks, stains, and smears reflect countless scattered burn spots note sparks from past nightime. Curled up on cold turf ‘side a smoke-driftin’ fire, on extended range outings it shielded me some. I’d wake in distress, boot bottoms singed black. There’s many a time it was crusted with frost, for buckaroos seekin’ ground-huggin’ rest. Or a welcomed windbreak ‘side the trail.

Some call it a rag. Others say it’s a pad. It’s not big and soft like Marriott quilts.

Editor’s Note: Stu is a member of the Public Lands Foundation, with over 39 years of federal service, and lives in Park City, Utah. He has been a wannabe cowboy poet since retirement. Stu is a 1960 graduate of the University of Idaho, School of Forestry with a Range option and served in the Marine Corps as a helicopter pilot. His career with BLM included positions in the Range program in the Boise, Vale, and Prineville Districts; was a Realty Specialist in Folsom; an Environmental Specialist in Kanab; and a Planner in the Utah State Office. He completed his BLM career in the Minerals program in the Washington Office and as Deputy State Director for Minerals in the Eastern States Office. Stu has also been a bedside volunteer at the Salt Lake City VA Hospital for over 20 years. We hope to publish some other poems by Stu (the Cowboy Poet) in future editions of the Monitor.

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 and Management Act.
- Encourage professionalism by BLM employees.
- Increase the public’s understanding of and support for the proper management of the public lands.

Western National Rangeland Career Development

By Karen Launchbaugh

University of Idaho

Fifteen FFA chapters and 68 high school students from across Idaho, Nevada, Utah, and Washington tested their knowledge of rangeland management in the Western National Rangeland Career Development Event, on November 11-12 in Elko, NV. The event was coordinated by the Western National Rangeland Education Association (WNREA) dedicated to raising awareness of career opportunities in rangeland conservation and management. Sponsors of the event included the Public Lands Foundation, Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission, Idaho and Utah Sections of the Society for Range Management, and rangeland degree programs from the University of Nevada-Reno, University of Idaho, and Montana State University.

“This career event is designed to mimic standards commonly used in the rangeland management profession. Students get hands-on experience with skills and scenarios they may encounter later as working professionals,” said Dr. April Hulet, rangeland extension specialist at the University of Idaho. Rangelands comprise nearly half of western North America, making their proper use and management vitally important to communities and economies in western states.

Students competed for awards by learning to identify 81 common rangeland plants, measuring vegetation attributes for livestock and wildlife habitat, calculating an appropriate stocking rate, considering grazing management options and estimating the cost of habitat improvements. “The event really prepares students with rangeland skills including real world math,” noted Emily Hale, a BLM employee who assisted the team from Omak, WA.

Dr. Paul Meiman, rangeland professor at the University of Nevada-Reno told the coaches and students, “There are far more jobs than students who graduate with professional range degrees. This is a great profession and we want to identify students who want to work outside to manage these lands for wildlife, livestock, or to restore rangelands and perhaps manage fuel loads to reduce wildfire risk.”

Editor’s Note: Karen is a Professor of Rangeland Ecology at the University of Idaho and a nationally recognized educator working to attract students to rangeland degrees and secure future careers on westernlands. She has degrees in Rangeland Science from North Dakota State University, Texas A&M University, and Utah State University. Karen has expressed her heartfelt appreciation to the PLF for support to the Western National Rangeland event. The WNREA and PLF have common missions to raise awareness of career opportunities in the range. You can learn more about the event at www.wnrcde.org or contact Karen Launchbaugh (WNRangeEducation@gmail.com or range@uidaho.edu). The 2020 Western National Rangeland event will be in Baker City, OR on November 9-10, 2020 and Karen Launchbaugh would love to hear from any PLF members that may be interested in helping with the event.

Several rangeland professionals joined students in the field to describe how the skills they have learned are put into practice. Representatives from natural resource agencies and organizations, including BLM, the Forest Service, and Elko County, described their job duties. Universities offering rangeland degrees, including the University of Nevada-Reno, University of Idaho, and Montana State University helped students explore college degrees that lead to careers on the range. You can learn more about the event at www.wnrcde.org or contact Karen Launchbaugh (WNRangeEducation@gmail.com or range@uidaho.edu). The 2020 Western National Rangeland event will be in Baker City, OR on November 1-10, 2020 and Karen Launchbaugh would love to hear from any PLF members that may be interested in helping with the event.

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The Public lands

The primary action we took was monitoring them—fire lookouts. For the majority of these "use fires," simply a watchful eye from an aircraft and by our few fire-use situations that necessitated more than a day ultimately never breached the national-forest boundary, and essentially, produced a long, linear fuel break for management of future fires.

A late-August multiple-lightning ignition in Hells Canyon necessitated engagement of an experienced wildland fire-use team, and eventually, of a Type-2 incident-management organization based in Riggins, Idaho, to keep this natural fire within the intended management zone. It’s when naturally caused fires burn onto lands on which use is not intended that sociopolitical failures can occur. When this happens, the potential of losing fire-use authority may well become reality. This never happened to me in the six years I made extensive use of this tool in designated wilderness, primarily because I carefully considered the variables listed earlier. It also helps to have wildland-fire experience during one’s career, a basic understanding of meteorology, and knowledge of what fire does in various fuel types and topography. On this fire, I authorized both chainsaw and retardant use in a few parts of the Hells Canyon Wilderness to successfully keep the fire within the intended fire-use management area. Helicopter bucket dips from the nearby Snake River also helped. We used this burn to minimize the spread of another fire in the same area a few years later.

With all the development that continues to occur in the wildland-urban interface, use of this tool can become a riskier venture. I found during my career that forest-management practices that reduce stand density and ladder fuels, combined with controlled underburning, are very helpful in reducing the wildfire threat to communities. The wise use of all these tools will help ensure healthy, sustainable forests—and the communities that depend on them—for the many uses the public values.

**BML LEADERSHIP**

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

- Deputy Director, Policy and Programs: William Perry Pendley
- Deputies: Michael Nedd, Chad Padgett, Raymond Suazo, Karen Moulton, Jaime Connell, Gary Torres (Acting), John Ruhs, John Mehloff, Jon Raby

Voting for the PLF 2020 Officers and Board Members was completed in December and we want to thank all members who voted either on-line or by the mail-in ballot inserted in the Fall edition of the Monitor. As of January 1, Mary Jo Rugwall is a new Director-at-Large, Anna Steele is being replaced by Jenna Whitlock as PLF State Representative for Idaho, and Geoff Middaugh has recently been replaced by Barron Bail as PLF State Representative for Washington. We thank Anna and Geoff for their commitment to the PLF and BLM over the years and we look forward to their involvement from time to time in the future.

We also want to welcome Jenna, Mary Jo, and Barron to the Board. As many of you know, Jenna has already taken a leading role, along with Ray Brady, in arranging a “fly-in” to DC to address the relocation of the BLM Headquarters Office to Grand Junction, Colorado. Mary Jo also played a significant role in that effort. Barron Bail was a recent appointment to the Board by PLF President Ed Shepard and approved by voice vote of PLF Board Members during a recent conference call.

In addition, the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) has voted to accept our
access the Member’s Forum, use the login button on the upper right corner of our website’s homepage at www.publicland.org. Use your email address and password on file with us. If you need to create a password or have lost your password, click on “Forgot Password” and follow the instructions. If you need assistance, contact George Stone at gstone@publicland.org.

**MEMBER’S FORUM**

Our Member’s Forum, an online communications tool, is up and running! It’s an exclusive benefit hosted on our website only for PLF members. As with most new things, we’re just starting out and we need YOU to help add content and get the conversations started!

The Welcome Forum provides the forum rules, explains how the Member’s forum works, and what you can do with it. There are links to videos on how to use the forum.

The BLM and Land Management Issues Forums are places to ask questions and discuss topics on those matters.

The PLF Forum is the right place to discuss matters about our organization, raise questions about the Member’s Forum, or other matters for the Board of Directors to consider.

In addition, you can create your own Member’s Profile and share as much or as little as you want about yourself with other PLF members. You can also update your contact information with PLF here. You may send messages between members as well. You’ll also find a PDF file with a Member’s Directory that will be updated periodically.

To access the Member’s Forum, use the login button on the upper right corner of our website’s homepage at www.publicland.org. Use your email address and password on file with us. If you need to create a password or have lost your password, click on “Forgot Password” and follow the instructions. If you need assistance, contact George Stone at gstone@publicland.org.

**SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH**

The PLF has an active presence on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter. We post our own news content and share noteworthy articles from reliable news sources every 24-48 hours. We concentrate on Facebook and Twitter where we have our largest audiences called “followers.” Even if you don’t use social media, you can view our posted content on our website’s homepage at www.publicland.org in the lower left “From Our Social Media” corner. Why are we on social media? There are many reasons, but the main one is that it plays a critical role as a component of PLF’s communications with our members and the public. Social media is interactive – which can be good and bad! As of the end of 2019, we have over 1,300 Facebook users who follow us, and 900 Twitter followers.

Our Facebook posts normally reach 200-400 users. However, our posts have reached larger audiences since July when the BLM reorganization became a major topic of interest.

Periodically, we run ads on Facebook to improve our outreach. We did so in December in conjunction with our full-page ad in POLITICO on the BLM reorganization and Headquarters relocation. Our ad ran for a week. We reached 14,800 targeted Facebook users with the ad accounting for about half of that total, with 668 users clicking on the link to our website’s special BLM reorganization page and resulted in over 1,300 “engagements,” meaning “likes,” comments, shares, or some other action. One of the benefits of social media is that it generates some useful data that PLF can use to improve our outreach. For example, we can learn which topics are of most interest to our audiences and adjust our content accordingly. If you want to follow us on social media, look for PLF as follows:

Facebook: @publiclandfdn
Instagram: publiclands
LinkedIn: Public Lands Foundation
Twitter: @PublicLandFDN

**IN MEMORIAM**

The PLF is committed to never forgetting the dedicated employees of 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. 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 Memoriam 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. If you have concerns, please let Ray Brady know at rbrady@publicland.org.

Donna Marie Bailey-Kock on October 10, 2019, in Soldotna, AK. Donna moved from Montana to Anchorage, AK in 1965 and worked for many years with BLM in Alaska before retiring.

Kenneth Beckstrom on August 6, 2015, in Santa Clara, UT. Ken was a Range Conservationist for 38 years in Elko, NV and St. George, UT.

Robert Thomas Berasi on November 16, 2019, in Salmon, ID. Bob earned a Forestry degree from Hawking Technical College, Ohio and moved to Salmon, ID in 1981 to work with the U.S. Forest Service. His last 17 years were with BLM.

Richard Burkholder on February 2, 2019, in Lakewood, CO. Dick joined BLM as a Realty Specialist in the MT State Office in 1989 and also served in the ID State Office in that capacity. He worked at the Denver Service Center from 1974 until retirement.

James Ronald Cox on October 22, 2019, in Las Cruces, NM. Ron attended New Mexico State University and received a Master’s Degree in 1970. He served in the Soil Conservation Service, BIA, and BLM, retiring in 1995.

Max C. Dolato on November 15, 2019, in Salem, OR. Max served as a Marine during World War II and was a firefghter, smoke jumper, and a graduate of Montana State University. Max worked for BLM for over 30 years.

Philip Joseph Englemann on September 29, 2019, in Hanksville, UT. Philip received a degree in Mechanics from Dixie College, UT and joined the Air Force in 1986. After discharge he served in the reserves for six years at Hill Air Force Base, UT. He worked for over 16 years at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Halls Crossing, and Bullfrog, before moving to Hanksville, UT and working for BLM. He was due to retire from BLM in January 2020.

Erick V. Kaarlela on December 6, 2019. Erick began his career with the Geothermal Office of the Conservation Division of USGS in the mid-1970s and transferred to BLM with the minerals merger in 1983. He ended his career with BLM in the Washington Office, Division of Fluid Minerals.

Michael Lucero on October 16, 2019 in Cheyenne, WY. Michael attended the University of Wyoming and was the BLM Wyoming EEO specialist.
Virginia Frances Lee Main on October 8, 2019, in California. Ginny moved to Alaska from Tacoma, Washington in 1956 and worked at the Alaska Native Hospital in Anchorage before working for and later retiring from BLM.

James Lee McCullough on November 6, 2019, in Pratteville, AL. James was drafted into the U.S. Army in December 1948 and served for over 30 years as a helicopter and fixed-wind pilot, including service in Vietnam and Korea. Following his retirement from the Army in February 1979, he flew helicopters for the BLM Alaska Office.

Sam McReynolds on December 6, 2019. Sam was the former Chief of Information Technologies in the BLM Wyoming State Office. He worked for BLM from 1977 until his retirement in 2011 in both Grand Junction, CO and in Wyoming.

Martin Sheve Phillips on November 24, 2019, in Riverton, UT. Marty graduated from the University of Michigan in 1963 with a degree in Wildlife Biology and retired in Bakersfield, CA. Martin moved to Alaska from Tacoma, Washington in 1979. He transferred to the Boise Interagency Fire Center in 1989 before retiring. He was an expert in Class A foam use in structural and wildland fire applications.

Larry Rex Scefield on November 5, 2019, in Falls City, OR. Larry earned a Masters degree in Wildlife Biology at the University of Massachusetts and worked for six years for the State of Massachusetts Fisheries Department. Larry moved to the Oregon coast in 1977 and began a 20-year study of the spotted owl while working for BLM. He worked in the Salem District and mentored many interns and seasonal biologists and botanists who later became career professionals with BLM, the Forest Service, and the State. He retired from the BLM in 1999.


David L. Simons on July 4, 2019, in California. Dave attended the College of the Siskiyous and worked for the Forest Service in the fire program in the McCloud Ranger District, Shasta Trinity National Forest, CA. He moved to the BLM Rawlins District, WY in 2002 as a NEPA planner and retired in 2015 from the BLM Cascade Field Office in Salem, OR after 45 years with the federal government.

Linda Wemhoff on December 5, 2019, in Emmett, ID. Linda worked at the warehouse at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise processing orders for supplies and equipment in support of fire operations for 30 plus years.

Richard Widmar on December 7, 2019, in Oklahoma City, OK. Rich was a Cadastral Surveyor for the Eastern States and NM State Offices, retiring as the BLM Indian Lands Surveyor in Anadarko, OK.

As part of the PLF efforts to address our concerns regarding the BLM reorganization plan and the Headquarters move, the Board set a goal to raise $10,000 by the end of 2019 to cover travel and other costs associated with our advocacy, outreach, and education work. We are pleased to report that we exceeded our goal and raised a total of $10,895 to support our efforts. We thank those members, including an anonymous donor, who provided donations to this cause.

STOP BLM MOVE CAMPAIGN

Robert Abbey Kegan Benson Henni Bason
Gela Babduttingten Peggy Brooks Lee Carter
Jim Caswell Alan Collins Sonya Cox
Kris Cromwell Weeks Eileen Daly Mary Decker
Earl Degroot John Douglas Carolyn Dinsmore
Dwright Felder John Fend Scott Florence
Mike Ford Irene Gonzales Steve Guirey
Dave Hammon Pat Harvey Roger Hawkins
Ed Hasty Nancy Haug Everell Hayes
Linda Hofman Michael Holbert Eric Janes
David Jones Marilyn Jones Terry Keim
Joe Krasnybrink Jeremy Krager Bill Lamb
Van Maning Donal Manuel David Mari
Jim May Beza McClure John Menezes
Glen Miller Christopher Muller Chris Osenather
Pearl Parker Jim Perry Felicia Probert
Karen Rice Mary Jo Rugwell Tim Salt
Alan Sando Laurie Sedlmyer Ed Sheppard
Don Simpson Darwin Swell William Stanley
Michael Stewart George Stone Joette Storm
Rosesmary Thomas Clark Whitehead Donald Whyde
Sharon Wilson David Wolf Al Wright
David Yokel Elaine Zielinski Martin Zimmer
I have been following the relocation of BLM offices from Washington, D.C. to western locations with interest, having spent four years of my BLM career in the Washington, D.C. office (1972 to 1977). Generally I support PLF’s position opposing the restructuring and relocation.

In the Fall edition of the Monitor, pages 16 & 17, there were six reasons listed as to why the effort is not a good idea. The first reading found me nodding in agreement, mostly based on my experience in the Washington Office. Then there was the classic “wait a minute!” In examining the six reasons from a different angle, they seem to be more Bureaucratic unhappiness with having to move and a lot of “maybes” about terrible things that “might” happen. If I read them right, there are no specific disasters that will occur on the actual on-the-ground BLM activities. I do not think the mineral leasing, mineral sales, and locatable mineral programs will be adversely affected. I do not think the grazing program will be affected. I see no changes in the existing lands, realty, and r/w program. I can’t see where our responsibility for wildlife habitat will change. The wild horse and burro program will be a challenge wherever offices are located. This list of BLM regular duties under FLPMA could go on and on with about the same comments. Unless our arguments in opposition can be reframed from unhappy bureaucrats having to move someplace else, to include specific problems and issues that will only occur because of the reorganization and relocation, our arguments are hollow.

If movement west is such a good idea, the effort should be Department-wide, with other agencies undergoing the same kind of reorganization efforts. I assume this has not happened. What I sincerely hope does not happen is that an attitude will develop that “this will never work”, and worse, “we should do everything we can to make sure it doesn’t”. If this occurs, the BLM has lost its excuse to exist. The agency becomes more concerned with serving itself rather than serving the public.

What we should be most concerned with is what the delegation of authority will look like and to whom it does exist, if not why, and how to make sure that western decisions are made by western people out west. I hope instead of the horror story I’ve outlined above that there will be a positive response by BLM managers to roll up their sleeves and make this work. Because I believe it can. We may have one of the best career opportunity periods in BLM for a long time, with the opportunity for bright eyed, bushy tailed, aggressive, go getters, to jump in to make BLM work in a different world. Thanks for taking the time to let an old man get something off his chest.

David Walter, Cheyenne, WY

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 bodo@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.

The Public Lands Foundation joins a long list of public land stakeholders who oppose the plan to dismantle the BLM. This land is yours, let’s keep it that way.
WHAT’S INSIDE?
2019 PLF Annual Meeting Wrapup .....................1, 3-12
President’s Column .....................................................2-3
Annual Meeting Group Photo ..........................12
Lifetime Achievement Awards .........................13-14
Volunteer Survey ........................................................14
Election Ballot ............................................................14
BLM Current Leadership ........................................14
Member’s Forum ..................................................... 14
Palomino Valley Corral .............................................15
Fight the Dismantling of BLM! ...............................16
In Memorium ............................................................17-19
Donations .................................................................19
Letters to the Editor .................................................. 19

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Name__________________________________________________
Address________________________________________________
City/State/Zip____________________________________________
Phone__________________________________________________
Email___________________________________________________
Date____________________________________________________
Amt Enclosed____________________________________________

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES
Regular ..........................................................$35
Contributing ...............................................$50
Family ........................................................$50
Sustaining ...............................................$100
Sponsoring ...............................................$200
Patron ....................................................$500 or more
Life Membership .........................................$350

JOIN US!!

THE PUBLIC LANDS FOUNDATION IS A TAX EXEMPT 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION