



For America's Heritage

# THE PUBLIC LANDS Monitor

P.O. Box 7226, Arlington, VA 22207  
703-935-0916

www.publicland.org  
info@publicland.org

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## 2020 PLF ANNUAL MEETING ROCK SPRINGS, WYOMING SEPTEMBER 15-18, 2020

We continue to monitor the Coronavirus, COVID-19, pandemic and will make a decision in early July whether or not we will hold this year's Annual Meeting in September. The decision will be announced in July in an e-blast to members, on our website at [www.publicland.org](http://www.publicland.org), and in the Summer edition of the Monitor. After August 1, if you do not have internet access and plan to attend the Annual Meeting, and if you have not received your printed copy of the Monitor, you can call Beau McClure at (623) 587-7883 to find out whether or not the meeting is being held.

The 2020 PLF Annual Meeting is scheduled to 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. Wednesday, September 16, will consist of a BLM tour 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 in the 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. 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 roundtrip airport shuttle is complimentary at scheduled times. For additional hotel information go to [www.holidayinn.com/rocksprings](http://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 [vpops@publicland.org](mailto:vpops@publicland.org), or by phone at (623) 587-7883.

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.

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

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**Ed Shepard**

Some of you have heard me say that I am a silviculturist, so by definition, I am an optimist. Further, I was a silviculturist in the hot, dry Medford District making me an eternal optimist. Anytime you put a small tree seedling in the ground with the idea that it will survive and thrive for decades through drought, fire, insects and disease to become a part of a vigorous forest stand, you rely on a lot of science, skill, and hopeful optimism. I need to remind myself of this often these days. We are going through some tough times and this Covid-19 pandemic is enough to get anyone down. We will get through this, as an organization and as a Nation. The public lands that we spent our careers managing and still care deeply about will play a part to help the Country recover, emotionally and economically. I hope that you are all well and pray that you remain that way.

During these times, the PLF remains operating pretty much as normal, as much of our work is accomplished via telephone calls and emails. Keeping prescribed social distancing has not been much of a challenge. However, as things play out, there may need to be some changes. For example, the Monitor may be slower coming out or we may need to temporarily go to a digital format, so that the volunteers that meet to label and mail the Monitor do not have to risk exposure. Planning also continues for the Annual Meeting in Rock Springs in September. We will keep an eye on events and make a decision in July if we will cancel or go on as planned (*see Meeting notice in this edition of the Monitor*).

Of course, the response to the pandemic is having a big impact on BLM and its employees. The BLM leadership is dusting off plans developed for SARS, H1N1, and other major events and putting them into place. Many, if not most of the employees are telecommuting or trying to work while maintaining

proper spacing. I worked on some of the earlier contingency plans and I'm not sure they fully addressed the situation that is evolving now. I assume the BLM leaders are spending a lot of time on conference calls trying to best address employee and public safety while also trying to keep the mission of the agency moving forward. One of the first things that came to my mind was the upcoming fire season and how quickly sickness can spread through crews and Incident Command Posts on a wildfire. Just about the time I was thinking about that, BLM's Office of Fire and Aviation was putting out guidelines. Good work, OFA!

The BLM reorganization and dismantling of the Headquarters in Washington, D.C. continues. The transition of directors to Grand Junction has begun with Deputy Director for Operations, Mike Nedd, and Deputy Director for Policy and Programs, William Perry Pendley, alternating between D.C. and Colorado on a biweekly basis, although this has temporarily stopped due to Covid-19 travel restrictions. The GAO released the results of their investigation into the BLM reorganization on March 6, 2020 (GAO-20-397R Bureau of Land Management) finding that the BLM did not fully follow accepted practices for reorganizing. The BLM responded that the GAO basically mischaracterized the effort as a "reorganization" when it is really a "relocation". Really?!! Call it what they will, when you take an organization and break it apart and scatter it over the Country, that's a "reorganization".

A major result of the "relocation" has been the loss of many senior level employees. The PLF has tried to get numbers accounting for employees that are moving and those that have separated from the agency. According to the GAO report, of the 311 positions that were to be relocated to the West, 132 were already vacant when the reorganization was announced in July 2019, leaving 179 positions to relocate. Of the 179 positions, 90 reportedly agreed to move while 81 decided to separate through resignation, retirement, or finding other jobs. At least some of the 90 that agreed to move are still actively looking for other jobs, so it will be sometime this summer before there will be a more accurate accounting of positions. We will keep tabs on the progress of the reorganization and how it is functioning.

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**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN** (CONTINUED)

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In February, Beau and I had the opportunity to sit in on the National Association of Forest Service Retirees annual board of directors meeting in Phoenix. The NAFSR's board is chaired by former BLM Director, Jim Caswell. This is the third year that PLF has participated in NAFSR's board meeting and the two organizations are finding that there are many ways we can support each other and work together to make our collective voices heard.

One way that PLF and NAFSR collaborated was on the recent NEPA rule changes proposed by CEQ. This was a natural fit for both organizations with BLM and the Forest Service responsible for the most NEPA documents prepared each year. Both organizations have members with a wealth of experience and knowledge of the NEPA process and have been involved with past efforts to make regulatory changes to this important statute. Both PLF and NAFSR organized teams to review and

develop comments on the NEPA proposals and in short time came to agreement on the changes we agreed with and those we thought needed to be modified. A great job by both teams!

At our annual board meeting last September, the Board agreed to look into the feasibility of hiring a full or part time Executive Director. To do this we will need to raise funds. Van Manning is leading the charge on developing a fundraising strategy that will require the involvement of members to make this successful. We have been working with partners to develop a position description for the Executive Director position should PLF decide to hire one. This is very much a work in progress. We'll keep you informed as this moves forward.

I'll close with these final words...stay home and stay safe! Oh, and wash your hands!

**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.

## LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARD - 2019 DEVON ENERGY CORPORATION

The Public Lands Foundation presents Devon Energy Corporation with its 2019 Landscape Stewardship Certificate of Appreciation and this Citation. The PLF grants this recognition to honor private citizens and organizations that work to advance and sustain community-based stewardship on landscapes that include, in whole or in part, public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

Devon has partnered with the Buffalo Field Office on numerous public land projects. This was achieved through Devon sponsoring the Wyoming Conservation Corp for a total of eight years. Projects included rebuilding fence and fence removal, mountain mahogany enhancement, ATV/UTV trail maintenance, juniper removal, weed spraying, and other miscellaneous trail work. Much of this work helped the Buffalo Field Office carry out projects that may have been unachievable due to the lack of time and resources. For example, mule deer winter range has been improved throughout the field office by thinning conifer encroachment in mountain mahogany sites. Greater sage-grouse habitat has benefitted by thinning conifer encroachment in sagebrush ecological sites. And fence repair and removal have assisted grazing lessees, saving them time and money as well as potential livestock injury.

In addition, starting in 2016, Devon has taken an active role in plugging and reclaiming idle coal

bed natural gas wells (CBNG) and associated infrastructure. Not only have they plugged and reclaimed over 360 CBNG wells, they have also removed the associated overhead powerlines and reclaimed the associated roads and pipelines. The reclamation of all infrastructure totals to several hundred acres of reclamation and ultimately thousands of acres of landscape restoration, all located in the Powder River Basin.

Devon's leadership and vision regarding the temporary use of land for oil and gas development demonstrates how industry can meet BLM's mission of "Sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations." This effort encourages other producers to follow their lead by showcasing successful oil and gas reclamation. Devon's proactive approach has created a sense of teamwork between private industry and BLM. Their volunteer education and safety days have helped cultivate a sense of commitment and trust amongst everyone.

The Public Lands Foundation is pleased to present Devon Energy Corporation with its 2019 Landscape Stewardship Certificate of Appreciation and this Citation for invaluable contributions to the stewardship of America's public landscapes.

Edward W. Shepard, President



Devon Energy Award presentation. Front row (sitting left to right): Jeff Ramsdell, Rebecca Byram, and Cathy Lebsack. Back row (standing left to right): Duane Spencer (BLM WY Acting State Director), Matt Beavers, Aaron Ketter, Bill LeBarron (PLF), Marty Summers, Derek Smith, Brody Erickson, and Preston Farnsworth.



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## REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE PLF LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARDS - 2020

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 BLM. The PLF members and BLM employees are encouraged to submit nominations by August 1, 2020. Winners will be determined at the PLF Board of Directors meeting in Rock Springs, Wyoming, 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 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. The PLF 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 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 people 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).

Click on "About", then on "Awards", then on "Landscape Stewardship Award/Certificate of Appreciation Recipients". Once there, you will find information about the award, candidates, nomination, and selection processes, evaluation factors, and a copy of the nomination form.

Please send nominations by August 1, 2020, by email to [dmari@publicland.org](mailto:dmari@publicland.org)

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## NEPA REGULATIONS

In response to a request from the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), PLF and the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) provided joint comments on proposed Rulemaking to Update the Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) on March 4, 2020. The PLF formed a Team to work with NAFSR and assist with the preparation of these joint comments. The PLF Team included Deb Rawhouser, Zachary Pratt, Jerry Magee, Walter George, and Bill Lamb. We thank the Team for their hard work and collaboration with NAFSR. A copy of the complete set of comments provided to the CEQ can be found on the PLF website at [www.publicland.org](http://www.publicland.org). An excerpt of some of the comments provided to the CEQ are highlighted in the following paragraphs.

*The CEQ's effort to update the NEPA Implementing Regulations after four decades of passage of the NEPA legislation is to be commended. Our Organizations found things in the new regulations we support and those we do not support. Furthermore, our organizations encourage the CEQ to develop a strong roll-out strategy, litigation and regulatory amendment strategy; and start-up training to key agencies and practitioners to facilitate successful implementation of the NEPA final rule.*

*Our category of major concerns discusses proposed changes to Cumulative Effects and Significance, Reasonable, Thresholds, and Added Administrative Requirements. We are concerned that some of the proposed changes, such as eliminating cumulative effects analysis, maybe viewed as "overreaching" and result in unforeseen and unintended consequences, becoming counterproductive and overshadow the entire regulatory effort, both judicially and politically. As result of potential unforeseen and*

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unintended consequences, future administrations or Congress may react with additional laws/regulations burdensome to the agencies.

The Organizations describe areas of proposed change support. These include several proposed changes to Categorical Exclusions, Tiering and Adoption of others environmental reviews, clarification of Cooperating and participating agency functions, and improvements to the section on Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)s. We support modernizing to bring the Regulations up to date with current and future technologies, simplifying procedural requirements, clarifying the terms and scope of the NEPA, and enhancing coordination with states, tribes, and localities.

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## GRAZING REGULATIONS

The BLM published a Notice in the Federal Register on January 21, 2020, "Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Revision of Grazing Regulations for Public Lands", seeking public comments as part of the scoping process for preparation of the EIS. The PLF formed a Team to prepare scoping comments in response to this Notice and provided a list of comments to the BLM by letter dated February 24, 2020. The PLF Team included George Lea, John Kwiatkowski, Bill Lamb, Rosemary Thomas, Van Manning, Richard Whitley, and Dick Mayberry. We thank the Team for their hard work and completion of the final comments before the end of the public comment period. The following Scoping Comments were provided to BLM by PLF:

**Flexibility** *The livestock permittees stress the need for more flexibility. We would like the EIS to cover specifically what it is they want more flexibility in. The development of Allotment Management Plans and paying for grazing at the end of the grazing season based on their actual use reports, for example, provides a good amount of flexibility. Any changes will need to be based on monitoring data.*

**Outcome based Grazing** *This is an experimental demonstration project less than two years in operation and it is too early to become a standard practice. However,*

*the regulations could cover these demonstrations for testing purposes.*

**Targeted Grazing** *Using livestock grazing as a tool in fire control and in other vegetation management plans is a good idea. The EIS should provide for this new tool including the possible contracting of a livestock operator to perform the needed grazing.*

**Administrative-permit processing** *It takes 7-10 years for BLM to process a grazing permit which is entirely too long. Regulations should propose ways to shorten approval time. In addition, recent changes in FLPMA, NEPA, ESA, and the Clean Water Act since 2006 e.g., setting priorities for processing permits, identifying which permits can be renewed using categorical exclusions should be covered. In addition, is there a need for a decision for every permit issued? The grazing fee formula or the base fee used in the formula needs to be reviewed and the possibility of raising the fee or adding a service charge to provide funding to shorten the time needed to process permits should be considered. In addition, the disparity between Federal grazing fees and State and private leases and the need to increase the fees to at least cover the cost of administration needs to be examined. Provide for receiving electronic protests and appeals to grazing decisions is needed.*

**Unauthorized use** *Issues identified in the GAO Report on grazing trespass needs to be addressed along with the authority that the Department of Justice can sue prior to impoundment. Establishing procedures for resolving incidental use while ensuring all discovered unauthorized use is documented is needed.*

**Land Health Standards** *The requirement, in the current Grazing Regulations, that grazing permittees must meet Land Health Standards must remain in Part 4180 of any revised grazing regulations.*

**Retirement of grazing privileges** *There has been a lot of dialogue regarding the purchases of ranches and associated grazing permits by 3rd parties wanting to retire the grazing privileges to protect other sensitive resource values on those public lands. The grazing regulations should more clearly respond to those procedures including clear procedures to deny other permittees actions to use areas that have been retired.*

## ED HASTEY – REMEMBERED

It is with deep sadness that we learned of the passing of Ed Hasty on February 22, 2020 in Sacramento, CA. See the **In Memoriam** section of this edition of the Monitor for background on the long and distinguished 42-year career of Ed with BLM, from a Forester in Oregon and California, to the BLM Budget Officer and Associate Director, and his 22 years as the State Director in California. The Public Lands Foundation presented Ed with a Lifetime Service Award for excellence in public land management in 2015.



Jan Bedrosian representing PLF and Ed Hasty

Ed fought for, and was successful in getting, increased funds for BLM to fulfill its increased responsibilities after passage of NEPA in 1969. His reputation as a straight shooter and knowledge of BLM and its mission made him a frequent and respected visitor to Capitol Hill.

Ed was on the forefront of many issues. His commitment to working with communities, local, state, and other federal agencies, as well as a wide variety of interest groups, set the culture of how to conduct business in California and across BLM. He was a tireless worker and dedicated to the BLM family.

Throughout his career, Ed was also a supporter of bringing diversity into BLM, believing that would make the agency more effective in accomplishing its mission and dealing with the wide array of constituents. He supported diversity in the program areas and saw that BLM added expertise beyond the more traditional lands, minerals, range, and

forestry. He hired women and minorities who had not come up through the traditional career paths, seeing skill and potential in many people who might otherwise have been passed over. Ed was a key player in changing the face of BLM to more closely reflect the demographics of this country.

**The PLF will be working with BLM California on an appropriate remembrance for Ed Hasty's life and accomplishments.** We will keep you informed on opportunities to contribute to those efforts.

In November 2019, the Public Lands Foundation recognized Ed Hasty for his support of the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program. The PLF award citation follows:

### **The Public Lands Foundation Honors and Celebrates Ed Hasty**

for leadership and support of the Bureau of Land Management's Wild Free-roaming Horses and Burros Program over the 20 years he served as California's BLM State Director. Ed's decision to adopt "Budweiser", a wild burro, in 1988, and to feed and love him in his backyard in Orangevale, California until "Budweiser's" death in 2018 is remarkable and unprecedented. Ed set an example for a successful Wild Horse and Burro adoption program in California during those years and clearly demonstrated the joy a pet wild burro can bring to wild horse and burro adoptees. We thank you for making "Budweiser" a showcase for adoptees across America. He was a grateful burro for sure!



Ed Hasty with "Budweiser" an adopted wild burro

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## COUNTIN' GRASS

By Stu Carlson – Cowboy Poet

My first day doin' field work coped a one-time, true-  
life deed.

On range survey out of Boise trampin' sagebrush plus  
cow feed.

That July sun was hot as hell with shade far  
off & rare.

They called my trek a transect collectin' forage  
data there.

Two weeks before I bankrupt sat in college  
summer camp.

One cash -shy student hittin' books 'neath night time  
study lamps.

Job prospects were then lacking when some federal  
guys showed up.

Three BLM headhunters offered me  
employment luck.

I signed my name with gusto and to Boise I would go.  
There warehouse bunked 'mid wheatgrass sacks for  
several nights or so.

Vince Strobbel was my crew chief. He seemed a  
welcomed treat.

We soon left town for field camp where work partners  
I would meet.

Thus...My rangeland home for comin' months a trailer  
worn would be.

One surplus army relic 'side some half dead,  
gnarled trees.

That tin can crate lacked cooling for to counter  
daytime heat.

Sack time within its confines was a nightly sweat-  
soaked feat.

With breakfast downed, we loaded up. Vince drove  
his topless jeep.

Crewmembers he transported, wedged tight on  
dusty seats.

His game plan was to gather lads spread far at  
end of day.

Then backtrack fast for evening chow where we tired  
tramps did stay.

My goal that cloud-free morning was to do a  
top-rate job.

Perfection on my first-day out slack effort must  
not rob.

With recon gear & canteen full, 'cross country I did go.  
Hoop tossed in random manner notin' hits where 'er  
plants grow.

Long miles I humped with sun on high. That day  
became a scorcher.

By noon I'd drained my canteen dry with thirst a  
growing torture.

Then voices in the distance my woozy wits did hear.  
How could there be another soul on grasslands  
vast & clear?

Rare luck by gosh was with me. Dawdling drifters  
I did find.

Two gorgeous gals plus one stout guy lodged 'side a  
rock incline.

The best part of this saga was the ice chest they  
did hold.

Cold beer & thick ham sandwiches if I would join  
their fold.

In time I asked why they were there, miles from the  
nearest town.

"Why are you in these boondocks on such remote  
public ground?"

His answer was quite honest, "on this mining claim  
we play!"

With assessment work so noted for their annual  
trip that day.

Decision time soon faced me 'top that sun-baked,  
cheat grass site.

To longer stay was risky. To linger was not right.  
But...Friendship full fueled, they begged I stay.

They were a social bunch.

Reality said, "hit the trail!" I thanked them for  
my lunch.

Those years are gone. I've aged with time.  
Retirement blessed is here.

I recall that encounter well. My memory's still clear.  
Fifty-seven was the benchmark for that summer

countin' grass.

Then a 40-year adventure and career that  
passed too fast.

-The end-

*Author's comment:* The term, "countin' grass" is an  
inhouse reference for vegetation (forage) inventories  
on rangelands in the West.

*Editor's note:* Stu is a member of the Public Lands  
Foundation, has over 39 years of Federal service, and  
lives in Park City, Utah. He has been a wannabee  
cowboy poet since retirement.



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## WESTERN NATIONAL RANGELAND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The next Western National Rangeland Career Development Event will be held in Baker City, Oregon on November 9 – 10, 2020. The event is coordinated by the Western National Rangeland Education Association and is dedicated to raising awareness of career opportunities in rangeland conservation and management. Sponsors of the event include 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.

You can learn more about the event at [www.wnrcde.org](http://www.wnrcde.org) or contact Karen Launchbaugh ([WNRangeEducation@gmail.com](mailto:WNRangeEducation@gmail.com) or [range@uidaho.edu](mailto:range@uidaho.edu)). 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 western lands. Karen Launchbaugh would love to hear from any PLF members that may be interested in helping with the event.

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### MEMBER'S FORUM

The Member's Forum, an online communications tool, is an exclusive benefit hosted on our website only for PLF members. 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](http://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](mailto:gstone@publicland.org)

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### BLM LEADERSHIP

With the continued changes in the leadership positions of BLM, we would like to provide an update on the current Leadership of BLM, 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  
*Exercising Authority of the Director*

Deputy Director, Operations

Alaska State Office	Michael Nedd
Arizona State Office	Chad Padgett
California State Office	Raymond Suazo
Colorado State Office	Karen Mouritsen
Eastern States Office	Jaime Connell
Idaho State Office	Gary Torres ( <i>Acting</i> )
Montana State Office	John Ruhs
Nevada State Office	John Mehlhoff
New Mexico State Office	Jon Raby
OR/WA State Office	Tim Spisak
Utah State Office	Jose Linares ( <i>Acting</i> )
Wyoming State Office	Anita Bilbao ( <i>Acting</i> )
	Duane Spencer ( <i>Acting</i> )

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### 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

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our posted content on our website's homepage at [www.publicland.org](http://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 2019 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 2019 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](mailto: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. If you have concerns, please let Ray Brady know at [rbrady@publicland.org](mailto:rbrady@publicland.org).

**Henry Oliver (Hank) Ash** on December 1, 2019, in Scottsdale, AZ. Hank attended the University of New Mexico and received Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Geology. He worked for BLM in Phoenix and Washington, DC and moved to the Denver area

in 1972 when he became coordinator of the BLM's oil shale program. He retired in 1983.

**Bette Baker** on December 20, 2019, in St. George, UT. Bette worked for BLM in Oregon and retired in 1994.

**Michael W. Brown** on March 8, 2020, in Sheridan, WY. Mike was an historian specializing in the the American West, with a special love for the history of Wyoming. Mike worked for BLM and the Forest Service in Utah, Wyoming, Nevada, and Arizona and was a frequent voice on radio with updates on wildland fire fighting efforts in the West. He also was involved in a collaborative project with the Boy Scouts of America to replace old trail markers along the Oregon-Mormon trail in Wyoming.

**Lucious Leroy Burns** on February 3, 2020, in Stockton, MO. Leroy was a Land Surveyor for BLM and retired after 30 years of service.

**Marjorie Ann Grant** on January 9, 2020, in Longmont, CO. Marjorie graduated from San Jose State College with a B.A. degree in Commercial Art and from UC Berkeley with a Master's degree in Fine Arts. Marjorie worked for many years variously as a cartographic or engineering draftsman for the U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Reclamation,

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**IN MEMORIAM** (CONTINUED)

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Bureau of Land Management, Soil Conservation Service, Federal Aviation Administration, and the U.S. Forest Service. She retired from the Forest Service in 1987.

**Chester (Chet) Grandjean** on January 14, 2020, in Socorro, NM. Chet graduated from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. He had a long career with BLM starting in Socorro, with assignments in Phoenix, AZ, Elko, NV, and retiring in Taos, NM after 33 years of service.

**Henry (Hank) Hammersmark** on March 3, 2020, in Billings, MT. Hank graduated from Montana State University with a degree in civil engineering and retired as the Chief Engineer in the Montana State Office after 30 years of service with BLM. He held engineering positions with BLM in Arizona, Idaho, and Montana.

**Henry (Hank) Freeman Hansen** on March 23, 2020, in Worland, WY. Hank attended Sheridan College and served in the U.S. Army. He worked for both the U.S. Forest Service and BLM in engineering positions and the fire program.

**Ed Hastey** on February 22, 2020, in Sacramento, CA. Ed was recognized by the PLF in 2015 with a Lifetime Service Award. He graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in Logging Engineering and started his long career with BLM in 1957 as a Forester in Medford, OR. He later transferred to the California State Office as a Forester and was later in charge of Civil Engineering. In 1965, Ed moved to Washington, DC as a Program Analyst and became the BLM Budget Officer in 1969. He moved into the position of Assistant Director for Administration in 1971 and was appointed as the California State Director in 1975 and served for four years before returning to Washington, DC as BLM Associate Director. In 1981, he returned to California as State Director until his retirement in 1999.

**Carol Jacoby** on January 4, 2020, in Riverside, CA. Carol had a long career with BLM in Colorado and Arizona. She worked in the Arizona State Office Division of Lands and Renewable Resources in the 1980s - 90s and then in the State Directors Office.

**Cecil Max Jorgensen** on February 27, 2020, in Cedar City, UT. In 1942 he enlisted in the Navy and served as a communications officer in the Western Pacific during World War II and saw action in the Philippines. He graduated from BYU with a degree in agronomy and soils. In 1960 he moved to Cedar City, UT where he worked for the Soil Conservation Service and BLM. Besides his duties as a soils and watershed specialist, he served as project manager for the Cedar City, YCC Camp.

**Linda Jean Kelly** on January 17, 2020, in Reno, NV. Linda worked for the National Park Service at Bryce Canyon, UT, Grand Canyon, AZ, Lake Mead, NV, and Channel Islands, CA and eventually ending with BLM in Reno, NV. Linda's interests in the environment and local history led to an in-depth knowledge of Northern Nevada's history and geography, which she shared in numerous educational presentations.

**Arlene Ruth (Martin) Kloepfer** on February 13, 2020, in Boise, ID. Arlene worked for BLM in Burley, ID and the Idaho State Office before retiring in 1988.

**Neal Robert Lyons** on July 14, 2019, in Richland, WA. Neal attended Washington State University and joined the Army during the Vietnam War and was stationed in Germany as a radio operator. He traveled extensively throughout Europe and North and Central America, eventually finding a job with BLM in Alaska until he retired in 2009. He was a loadmaster, packing helicopters and airplanes for firefighting operations.

**Patsy Pearson** on December 12, 2019, in Anchorage, AK. Patsy retired in 2017 from the BLM Minerals and Land Conveyance Program office in Alaska, after 47 years of government service.

**Elbridge Gerry Pond, Jr.** on January 24, 2020, in Sequim, WA. Gerry graduated from Washington State University with a degree in Forestry. He spent most of his career in Oregon working for BLM and Bonneville Power.

**Ruth M. Stockie** on February 1, 2020, in San Antonio, TX. Ruth worked for BLM in Alaska and as a

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**IN MEMORIAM** (CONTINUED)

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training coordinator at the National Training Center in Phoenix. She retired after 21 years of service.

**Lowell Stone** on March 6, 2020, in San Francisco, CA. Lowell spent his BLM career of approximately 30 years in the Ukiah, California District, beginning about 1964-65. He retired as the Fire Management Officer for both the Ukiah and Redding Districts.

**Herbert James Sweeney** on February 12, 2020, in Payette, ID. At 17 he joined the Army Air Corp, which later became the U.S. Air Force, and worked as an aircraft mechanic working stateside during the Korean War. He worked at the Sheldon Antelope Refuge in Nevada, Red Rock Trumpeter Swan Refuge in Montana, and for various construction companies as a heavy equipment operator in Nevada, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. He worked for BLM for 20 years, as a heavy equipment operator and as a compliance officer on contracts on public lands, retiring from the Winnemucca District in 1986.

**Donald Glen Wilcox** on March 6, 2020, in Anchorage, AK. Don earned a degree in Mining Engineering from the University of Alaska – Fairbanks and served in the Navy during World War II. He worked for BLM in Alaska and spent many years as an administrator for the FAA, planning and securing funds to improve airstrips throughout Alaska.

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**DONATIONS**

You can make a designated donation by credit card on our website at [www.publicland.org](http://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 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.

The PLF Scholarship Committee (Ray Brady, Connie Stone, and David Stout) has reviewed and rated applications for the 2020-2021 George Lea Founder’s Scholarships. Financial aid offices and natural resource departments at colleges and universities were contacted in an effort to publicize the scholarships. The Committee received 30 applications from 20 colleges and universities. Due to the current situation with the Coronavirus, and the stock market’s fall affecting the PLF’s financial resources, options are being considered about how, when, or if to award scholarships this year. Donations to the Scholarship Fund from PLF members would help ensure that scholarships could be issued this year.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### BLM HQ REORGANIZATION

David Walter's letter in the Winter edition of the Monitor inspired me to supplement his comments. I too served in the WO (1980-2011) and found public/civil service to be both rewarding and challenging. I discovered variety, innovation, in an organization that respected professionalism, loyalty, integrity, and honored hard work. It is attributed to Dale Carnegie who said, "When fate hands you a lemon, make lemonade." The BLM historically has been handed a lemon or two and has always made the best of it, but this time it is neither fate nor a single lemon, but a planned political power play served up with a truckload of lemons.

Mr. Walter is correct that the BLM leadership and their staffs will make this work. What choice do they have? This is the issue so troubling, they have no choice but to make the situation better than what they are being dealt. One of the advantages of experience is not having to re-invent the wheel. The PLF's membership is approximately 600. If one presumes on average each PLF member served a minimum of 20 years with BLM in land/resource management, that's a pool of expertise representing some 12,000 years of experience. An impressive collection of wisdom wouldn't you say? Why wasn't this wisdom along with current career employee's experience taken advantage of? There was no re-organizational business plan, cost-benefit analysis, efficiency or effective model, pilot test, or a methodology to coordinate across states, programs, or in an interdisciplinary or interagency manner. As PLF President Ed Shepard laid out in his last column, this unprecedented lemon truck never slowed down or stopped when traffic signals, road cones, and flag wavers warned of imminent danger.

Many federal western agencies have offices and leadership staffs in our nation's capitol, e.g., U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Bureau of Reclamation, Office of Surface Mining, U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, etc. The BLM Headquarters typically deals with policy issues that bubble up from the states for consolidation requiring a consistent response. Per BLM's website and organizational chart, it appears that all field policy and program issues will now be either funneled through the Directorate in Grand Junction or be directly relayed to William Pendley (Deputy Director, Policy and Programs). Mr. Pendley's staff has a Law Enforcement and Security Office and four other sub-offices (to handle Fire/Aviation, Resources/Planning, Energy/Minerals/Realty, and Conservation/Partnerships) and will presumably coordinate with the Department, OMB, Congress, and/or other natural resource agencies located in Washington, D.C.

What is unclear is who in the BLM Field/State offices have lead responsibility for various programs, i.e., planning, energy/minerals, lands/realty, wetland/riparian, rangeland management, forestry, cultural and heritage resources, recreation and visitor



services, law enforcement, fire and aviation, wild horses and burros, national conservation lands, legislation, budget, de-regulation, etc.? Will there be any program leads since staff technical specialists are now scattered across the states? How will natural resource specialists focus on program policy changes, updates or coordinate and/or interact with each other? It appears this decreases the effectiveness and professionalism of the agency.

I love lemonade but this is going to take a lot of sugar to make it sweet enough for the BLM employees or the public to drink.

**Gary G. Marsh**, Mountain City, TN

### SHOULD PLF CHANGE ITS NAME

I am in favor of clarifying how the words “Public Lands” are used and why the PLF, should consider changing its name to the “Bureau of Land Management Retiree Coalition”.

In the final weeks of deliberation over passage of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), in 1976, the House and Senate sub-committees sparred over what to call lands administered by BLM. The Senate insisted on using “National Resource Lands” and the House insisted on using the term “Public Lands”. Congress ultimately agreed with the House and passed FLPMA, knowing that the term “Public Lands” could still cause confusion.

“National Resource Lands” would have given BLM the clear separation or distinction from other Federal agencies who also manage public lands, namely the Park Service with its National Parks, the Forest Service with its National Forests, the Fish and Wildlife Service with its Wildlife Refuges, the Bureau of Reclamation with its 5 million acres of Reclamation lands, and the Corps of Engineer’s recreation areas on its 450 lakes around the country. And, we can’t forget non-federal “public lands”, like the 10,000+ state parks and the tens of thousands of county parks across America, but the average American does not make a distinction between federal and non-federal “public lands”.

Lacking the “National” designation the other federal agencies enjoy is a clear disadvantage to the BLM with its “Public Lands” designation –and it is challenging for the BLM to communicate who they are. Is it an agency perceived to manage all “public lands” or simply the “public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management”? To the BLM and the PLF that answer is obvious, but to the general public, it’s not.

For example: Last summer, a distinguished NEPA lawyer from Arizona emailed me -- “Bob, there is indeed vast confusion and multiple definitions of the term “public lands”. Ask the average informed person and they’ll instantly talk about national parks, national forests, etc., and, in fact, those areas and more are included in the definition of public lands under certain laws (see, for example, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act). Seems a pity that there isn’t a unified definition and common understanding of the term, but clearly, there is not.”

Ask any informed person in a western city who the Public Lands Foundation is and you will likely get an “I don’t know” response. Ask a similar question on whom a Bureau of Land Management Retiree Coalition is, and I would imagine the answers would be more positive in at least recognizing the words “Bureau of Land Management”. We should desire a retiree organization whose Brand shouts out “BLM Administered Lands” – to government agencies, the Congress, BLM employees and all Americans.

There are Retiree Associations or Coalitions that are named after the agency they support, but all of them contain the name of the associated agency along with the word “retiree”, *e.g.* the National Parks Retiree Association, Bureau of Reclamation Retirees, and the National Association of Forest Service Retirees. The use of a name without the operative words “Bureau of Land Management” and “Retirees” is not definitive, and begs the question of “who we are”.

A switch from the PLF to the “Bureau of Land Management Retiree Coalition” should resonate with BLM retirees and the public at large. It would also clarify who we are and what we do as an organization to support the BLM in its administration

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (CONTINUED)

of its Public Lands. I believe that those who know the BLM would endorse and support a retiree organization who's Brand is recognizable by using the words "Bureau of Land Management" and "Retiree". This would give our members a greater sense of purpose and it will create a stronger message for non-members. I would encourage the thoughts of other members of the PLF of changing the name of our organization.

**Bob Anderson**, Centreville, Virginia

*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](mailto:rbrady@publicland.org). Comments should be limited to no more than 500 words in length. In addition, members are encouraged to use the [bod@publicland.org](mailto:bod@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 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 PLF. We intend on maintaining a friendly and professional tone in the articles in the Monitor and any postings of Letters to the Editor.*

### **Coronavirus, COVID-19, Pandemic Advisory**

In the event we are unable in the future to print and mail the Monitor, our newsletter will always be available on the PLF website. We also notify our members by email of the availability of the Monitor. Please ensure we have your current email address on file.

### **Do We Have Your Current Contact Information?**

Please help us keep our records current. It's easy to do by updating your profile on the Member's Forum, message us at [info@publicland.org](mailto:info@publicland.org), or call at 703-935-0916.

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**WHAT'S INSIDE?**

2020 PLF Annual Meeting .....	1
President's Column .....	2-3
Outstanding Public Lands Professional Awards....	4-5
My Saddle Blanket - Cowboy Poet.....	6
Western National Rangeland Career Deveopment....	7
Wildland Fire-Use Decisions .....	8
2020 Board of Directors .....	9
BLM Current Leadership .....	9
Member's Forum .....	10
Social Media OutReach .....	10
In Memorium.....	11-12
Donations .....	13
Letters to the Editor .....	14



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