



For America's Heritage

THE PUBLIC LANDS Monitor

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FORMING THE PUBLIC LANDS FOUNDATION

By George Lea, Founder and Past President

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While I was working for BLM it always bothered me that when someone retired after spending a career with the Bureau they were quickly forgotten. Few remembered them, knew where they were, or cared. It was surprising how quickly they just disappeared. It also concerned me how someone could spend 30 years with BLM, making many close friends and just close the door, not looking back, and walk away. It also bothered me that one could spend a career gaining knowledge and experience and not want to put that knowledge to work even in a small way, in part perhaps as a pay-back for a good life with BLM, but more importantly to aid the future management of the public lands. I told myself that when I retired I would do something about this situation.

When I retired in 1982 after 30 years with BLM one of my first efforts was to help organize and conduct luncheons of BLM retirees in the Washington, D.C. area.

At the spring 1987 luncheon, I asked the group what they would want to do as a group. Did they just want to keep it as a social gathering or were they interested in being informed of what BLM was doing and perhaps get involved? That was the wrong

question to ask. The first person to respond said "let's just keep it social" and no one objected. At the fall luncheon the following year, I did not ask the group but told them that I wanted to form a non-profit organization of retirees and all those interested in working with me should gather in the corner of the lunch room after the lunch.

Following the lunch a small group gathered in the corner to plan the next step. After a lengthy discussion on how to proceed, I finally said "OK, let's begin by forming a small group of officers for this organization". I volunteered to be Interim President and suggested that Irving Senzel be Vice President, "Smokey" James O'Connor be Secretary/Treasurer, and Doris Koivula, Arnold Petty and George Turcott be Board Members at Large. All agreed and the first step in forming the Public Lands Foundation was taken.

After about six months of developing Articles of Incorporation and drafting by-laws, the Foundation was incorporated on November 30, 1987 in the State of Virginia. Those signing the Articles of Incorporation as members of the Board of Directors were George Lea, Irving Senzel, "Smokey" O'Connor, Doris Koivula, Arnold Petty, and George Turcott. Next came the task of gaining non-profit 501(c)(3) status from

(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



Ed Shepard

Well, 2020 is finally behind us! To those of you that have, or are suffering through Covid-19, I hope you are on the mend and recovering well. My heartfelt sympathies go to those who have lost family or friends to this terrible pandemic. We can only hope that the vaccines

are as effective as they appear to be in trials and that we are given the opportunity to be vaccinated as soon as possible. I know that I am looking forward to the day when we can see our friends and family in person and not via the computer.

Looking back on the past year, I think the PLF did a pretty good job of fulfilling our mission. Despite the difficulties caused by the pandemic, we used our BLM-gained “can do” attitude and met most of our goals for the year. Thanks to the hard work of several members, our partners, and volunteers we were able to comment on rulemakings and legislation and advocate for BLM on several programs, such as wild horses and burros and wildland fire issues. We also learned that we could have a successful annual meeting by using technology when we can't meet in person. I think we are all hoping we can go back to face-to-face meetings in the near future, but now have the capability to meet via technology when we need to.

With 2020 in the rear-view mirror, it's time to look forward to the future and to what 2021 will bring. We will have a new Administration that will bring about changes, as they all do. We have all been through the transition drill many times and know that it may be some time before we have the cadre of political leaders in place. We also know that we have to be ready to greet the new leaders and

present the PLF positions on issues when the timing is right. To that end, the PLF Directors have been doing a lot of work starting last spring and early summer. Van Manning led a Transition Planning Team that solicited input and developed a list of priorities to focus our transition work. Following the September Board meeting, a PLF Transition Team was formed to build on that work and to provide outreach to the DOI Transition Review Team. This team is chaired by Mat Millenbach and includes Henri Bisson, Ray Brady, Tom Allen, Don Simpson, Jim Caswell, George Stone, Eric Janes, and myself. We drafted a short paper that we could share with the Department regardless of the results the November election. After the election we finalized the paper. A copy of the paper can be found on the PLF website under the Latest News headline.

Once the Transition Review team members were announced we reached out and offered the PLF paper to the team. They were pleased to receive our paper since, at that time, they were not able to communicate with BLM or the Department. Our intent was not to inundate them with a lot of paper, but to give them some advice as they transition with the BLM leadership. We wanted to build a relationship with them with the hope that they will look to PLF members' experience as the new Administration moves forward.

When the new BLM leadership is in place, our team will be reaching out again to offer any help we can and hopefully reestablish the relationship with BLM and the Department that we had in the past. We wish the best to Secretary-designee Deb Haaland. We also look forward to the nomination and Senate confirmation of a BLM Director soon.

We are also looking forward to the hiring of an Executive Director for the PLF. In 2020 the Board approved a position description for an Executive Director and advertised to fill the position. Bob Moore chaired a committee to seek candidates for the job. The announcement was published in several of our partner's newsletters and closed on December 30. Applications are now being reviewed and we hope to have the Executive Director in place soon to take on the job of fundraising and helping the PLF build capacity to better advocate for the public lands.

The PLF continues to recognize individuals and groups that have contributed in a significant way to the public lands, BLM, and PLF. We recognize current BLM employees and Managers with the annual Outstanding Professional Employees Award, we recognize contributors from outside BLM with Landscape Stewardship Awards, we recognize PLF members with the Volunteer of the Year Award, and BLM retirees Lifetime Service Awards. We also have members that have gone above and beyond and deserve special recognition. One such member is Glen Collins. The PLF has an outstanding archive located at the BLM's National Training Center in Phoenix. The archives consist of PLF records and many historic photos, documents, and records of BLM-managed public lands. Glen took on the role of managing the archives for many years, as well

as being a Board member and officer of the PLF for many years. He is also a charter member of the PLF. Glen retired from the PLF Board of Directors in 2020. In recognition of his many years of service to the public lands and the PLF, the Board unanimously voted to name the archives the "Glendon E. Collins National Archives". We wish Glen the best and thank him for his second career of serving the PLF for 33 years.

I'll close this out by thanking all of the officers, directors, volunteers, members, and partners that make the PLF successful. We could not do this without your many hours of service and your financial contributions. I wish you all a happy and healthy 2021 and look forward to working with you in the New Year.

Forming The Public Lands Foundation *(continued from page 1)*

the Internal Revenue Service, which was finally accomplished without any legal help after months of back and forth with the IRS on October 1, 1989. The next task was finding funding to support our efforts. Each Board member gathered a list of retirees they knew and offered them a Charter Membership for \$25.00. As a result, 188 retirees became our original Charter Members. In March of 1992 and again in 1993, the Town Creek Foundation of Oxford, Maryland gave the PLF a \$10,000 grant each year, which was a great help in getting us going. Other than those two grants, and modest help from the Combined Federal Campaign, the PLF has been supported by the generosity of our members.



George Lea
Founder PLF

who were suspicious of our objectives, not certain where our advocacy would take us. Some said one should not worry because the Foundation would soon disappear, members would lose their interest, they would eventually die, and the organization would disappear. Most volunteer organizations do. However, after 33 years as a Foundation, that has not happened, thanks to the continuing support of our members.

Editors Note: *The PLF Board during the Annual Meeting in September 2020 considered a proposal to change the name of our organization to perhaps better reflect our membership of BLM retirees and to avoid the possible confusion by some members of the public related to the definition of "public lands." After considerable discussions by the Board it was decided to keep the name of the Public Lands Foundation. We are reminded of the legacy of the important work that George Lea did in the 1980s, after his retirement from BLM, to establish the Public Lands Foundation as a non-profit organization. George Lea, former BLM Range Conservationist, District Manager, W.O. Division Chief, and BLM Assistant Director, laid the foundations for what we know as the Public Lands Foundation today. Thank you George for your vision.*

I guess, as they say, the rest is history. During our formative years there were some in the Bureau

LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD

TOM WARREN

The Public Lands Foundation grants to Tom Warren its Lifetime Service Award for excellence in public land management. The Foundation provides this award to deserving BLM employees who have perpetuated and enhanced the proud tradition of public service.



Lifetime Service Award Presentation on October 7, 2020 – Tom Warren on right and Jim Currihan representing the PLF

Tom is a native Nevadan, graduating from the University of Nevada and beginning his career as a range conservationist in the Elko District in the mid 1980s. Moving on to management responsibilities for Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR), range improvements and operations programs, Tom continued to earn the respect of ranchers and his fellow employees. In the last 20 years of his career Tom had responsibility for the ESR efforts of more than four million acres of land in the Elko District. He oversaw planning and implementation of reseeding, planting, and invasive weed treatments at an average annual cost of \$4 million. He accomplished this by building partnerships with private landowners, industry, and partner agencies.

In addition to his long and successful leadership of the ESR program, Tom was instrumental in

implementing parts of a landscape level plan, the South Fork Canyon Interdisciplinary Plan. Tom's leadership and personal involvement in complex projects resulted in major stream and wetlands restoration accomplishments. He was described as "a driving force" in getting partnerships to work, including volunteer projects to benefit wildlife with the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Nevada Muleys.

One respondent in supporting Tom's nomination for this award noted that Tom "...is the definition of what a public servant ought to be, and more". Another cited Tom's "...dedication, commitment, persistence and professionalism," as difficult to match.

The Public Lands Foundation is honored to recognize Tom Warren with this Lifetime Service Award presented in 2020.

Edward W. Shepard, President

A. RAY KELLER

The Public Lands Foundation grants to A. Ray Keller its Lifetime Service Award for excellence in public land management. The Foundation provides this award to deserving BLM employees who have perpetuated and enhanced the proud tradition of public service.

Ray is a longtime resident of New Mexico. He began working for BLM in 1976 and spent his 42-year career exclusively in the Pecos District of southeast New Mexico. From the beginning, Ray's range monitoring innovations fueled his passion for landscape-scale restoration efforts which included treatment of noxious weeds and oil field related reclamation efforts.

Ray worked tirelessly to participate in meetings, give talks, and lead tours of Restore New Mexico projects. His ability to create and nurture partnerships has been recognized through numerous awards. These



Lifetime Service Award Presentation on November 6, 2020 – Ray Keller on left and Jesse Juen representing the PLF

partnerships include Soil and Water Conservation Districts, road departments, oil and gas companies, grazing permittees, and various conservation groups. Ray's nomination for this award cites him as "...the driving force behind the collaborative efforts of all of these incredibly diverse groups." He is also recognized for generating "...trust and a sense of shared stewardship among the local citizenry as well as various agencies working in the region...."

Ray's ability to find common ground and facilitate the Restore New Mexico Program resulted in restoration of Lesser Prairie Chicken habitat to the extent the species has not been listed as endangered.

The Public Lands Foundation is honored to recognize Ray Keller with this Lifetime Service Award presented in 2020.

Edward W. Shepard, President

PLF GLENDON E. COLLINS NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Editors Note: The PLF recently recognized Glendon E. Collins, Board of Directors, for his many years of support and contributions to the Foundation. In honor of his service, the PLF Archives, located at the BLM National Training Center, has been renamed the PLF Glendon E. Collins National Archives. The Archive collection of BLM and public lands history currently includes approximately 2,000 documents, photos, recordings, and other items. It also houses the records of the Public Lands Foundation.

The Archives are managed by local PLF volunteers and are available to researchers. For more information on documents and articles that are available on the PLF website, please see the Summer 2020 edition of the Monitor.

Questions on the Archives can be directed to the Archives Manager, Connie Stone, at cstone@publiclands.org. Document donations can also be sent to the PLF Archives at the BLM National Training Center, 9828 N. 31st Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85051. The telephone number is 602-906-5500. The following recognition, signed by PLF President Ed Shepard, was presented to Glendon E. Collins.

The Public Lands Foundation proudly recognizes Glendon E. Collins on his retirement from the Board of Directors and presents him with a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his dedication and outstanding service to the Public Lands Foundation during the years 1987 to 2020.



**Glen Collins
former PLF Board of
Directors**

Glen is a Charter Member of the PLF and became a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors and the first Regional Representative for Arizona in 1990; a position he retained until 2010. From 2009 through 2016 he was PLF's Secretary, in charge of developing the PLF's quarterly newsletter, the

Public Lands Monitor. He also has been Chairman of the PLF's Communications Committee, a member of the Historical Committee, and the PLF Archives Manager. In these capacities he has contributed many volunteer hours in the interest of public land management and assisting current and former BLM employees. A special recognition is in order for his role in the establishment and management of the

PLF Archives and helping to educate new BLM employees about the BLM history and PLF during the BLM semi-annual Pathways training courses.

Glen has written numerous articles and publications over the years, including many for the Public Lands Foundation. Glen developed and maintained a Register of BLM Retirees, which he updated every two years and made available to all PLF members. He also developed and updated every five years a Historical Record of the Offices, Managers, and Organizations of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Grazing Service, General Land Office, and O&C Revested Lands Administration, dating back to 1934.

The numerous generous contributions made by Glendon E. Collins over the years as a PLF member are greatly appreciated. We thank him for his service and his dedication to supporting the Public Lands Foundation and America's public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

As a lasting token of recognition of Glen's countless contributions to the Foundation, we hereby rename the PLF Archives as the "PLF Glendon E. Collins National Archives".

Edward W. Shepard, President



Award Presentation on November 17, 2020 – Glen Collins (front) with Beau McClure, Van Manning, and Mike Ferguson (rear l to r) representing the PLF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

The Public Lands Foundation is currently completing the interview process to hire a part-time paid Executive Director position to assist the PLF in promoting its advocacy mission, vision, goals and activities before the BLM, Department of the Interior, Congress, and other organizations. This position will also direct and conduct PLF fundraising activities. The closing date for applications was December 30, 2020 and 11 applications were received before the closing date. After a review of the applications received, the most qualified candidates will be invited to participate in remote interviews with members of the PLF Board of Directors.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATE

The PLF has initiated a new effort to monitor Congressional legislation and Federal rulemaking activities pertaining to the Department of the Interior, the BLM, and public lands management. This will be especially important with the new administration and with the start of the 117th Congress in January. The PLF, as an advocacy organization for the public lands, is actively engaged in providing our perspectives on a wide range of issues including the annual BLM appropriations, any program oversight hearings, proposed amendments to FLPMA and other major statutes affecting public lands management, and proposed regulations regarding BLM resource programs. Reviewing legislation and proposed rules and preparing comments and testimony, when appropriate, is an important part of our advocacy work. We will be updating a new Legislation and Regulations webpage on our website under the “Advocacy” link and we plan on providing updates in this and future editions of the Monitor. We solicit your feedback and comment on the content of these updates. We would also like to thank David Blackstun for his assistance in this effort and request the assistance of any other PLF members who would like to provide their assistance to this valuable advocacy work.

CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2021 H.R. 133 AS AMENDED

Bill Status: Signed by the President on December 27, 2020

Bill Summary: Congress passed a \$900 billion COVID relief package and the \$1.4 trillion omnibus appropriations bill that provided funding for federal agency operations through September 2021. The Interior appropriations bill included \$515 million in funds for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program to offset tax losses for public lands within local government jurisdictions, \$900 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) as required by the Great American Outdoors Act, and \$1.27 billion for Bureau of Land Management operations. The BLM appropriations reflected a decrease of approximately \$28 million from the 2020 appropriations. The appropriations bill also

included several policy riders including the prohibition of listing the greater sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act, a limitation on oil and gas development near the Chaco Culture National Historical Park in New Mexico, and a goal to approve 25 gigawatts of wind, solar, and geothermal energy projects on the public lands by 2025 (BLM has identified some 8.1 gigawatts of projects currently approved on the public lands).

PLF Position: The PLF had an opportunity to provide input on BLM 2021 budget issues to the House Appropriations Committee in February 2020.

GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT - H.R.1957/S.7092

Bill Status: Became Public Law No: 116-152; August 4, 2020

Bill Summary: This bill provides for permanent funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund at \$900 million per year and establishes the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund of up to \$1.9 billion per year for five years to support priority deferred maintenance projects on Federal Lands administered by the National Park Service, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Indian Education. Congress through the omnibus appropriations bill mentioned above, directed Interior to fund the priority federal land acquisition projects previously identified by BLM and other agencies.

PLF Position: The PLF identified implementation of the Great American Outdoors Act as a priority for BLM in recommendations to the Biden Transition Team. BLM land acquisition projects provide great opportunities to improve public access to public lands, enhance wildlife habitat, and create recreational opportunities for the public. There is also Congressional pressure for the new administration to rescind Secretarial Order 3388, dated November 9, 2020, from outgoing Interior Secretary Bernhardt that gives governors veto power over federal land acquisitions with LWCF funds.

E-BIKE REGULATIONS – 43 CFR PART 8340

Rule Status: Final rule published November 2, 2020.

Rule Summary: The rule revised the BLM off-highway vehicle (OHV) regulations to address the use of electric bikes (e-bikes) on public lands. The final rule amended the regulations to define e-bikes, which are limited to Class 1, 2, and 3 e-bikes, and provides BLM managers the ability to exclude e-bikes that meet certain criteria from the definition of an off-road vehicle or OHV. The rule will allow the use of e-bikes on trails limited to bicycles and non-motorized travel ONLY if a BLM Manager has issued a written decision authorizing such use in accordance with a land use planning or implementation – level decision that complies with NEPA and other legal requirements.



E-Bikes on the public lands (Photo credit: Bob Wick, BLM)

PLF Position: A proposed rule was published in the Federal Register on April 10, 2020 and PLF provided comments on the proposed rule on May 27, 2020. The PLF generally supported the proposed rule and BLM considered our comments and recommendations in the development of the final rule.

WILD HORSE & BURRO (WH&B) REGULATIONS 43 CFR PART 4700

Rule Status: The BLM intends on preparing and publishing a proposed rule in 2021 that would address the WH&B program and better reflect the BLM's statutory authorities.

Rule Summary: The BLM submitted a Report to Congress, "An Analysis of Achieving a Sustainable Wild Horse and Burro Program" on May 8, 2020, that would stabilize on-range population growth over a 4-5 year period, reach AML nationally over the next decade after the initial first phase, and maintain AML in perpetuity. The BLM estimated that the cost of a successful program would have to steadily increase from a proposed 2021 funding level of \$116.8 million to a fifth year cost of \$238 million. The BLM qualified these cost estimates on advances in temporary and long-term fertility control efficacy and duration or humane permanent sterilization methods that could significantly decrease program costs. The omnibus appropriations bill mentioned above, provided BLM with \$115.7 million in funding for 2021 to support this program plan. The appropriations language also indicated that the plan should "include a robust expansion of fertility control utilizing methods that are proven, safe, effective, and humane." The omnibus bill also included language forbidding appropriated funds from being used for the "destruction of any healthy, unadopted" WH&B or the sale of a WH&B for "processing into a commercial product."

PLF Position: The PLF will be closely tracking this proposed rule and providing comments during the public comment period.

OIL AND GAS VENTING AND FLARING REGULATIONS – 43 CFR PART 3179

Rule Status: Final rule published November 18, 2016, Suspension rule published December 8, 2017, and Revision rule published September 28, 2018. On October 8, 2020, the Wyoming Federal District Court struck down the BLM oil and gas "waste prevention rule", otherwise known as the "venting and flaring rule". The 2018 Revision rule was previously vacated by the Court on July 15, 2020. The most current Court decision concluded that in issuing the 2016 Rule, BLM exceeded its statutory authority since the rule was grounded in air quality issues and impinged on EPA authorities under the Clean Air Act.

Rule Summary: The 2016 Rule aimed to reduce methane emissions from oil and gas facilities on

federal and tribal lands by regulating the venting and flaring of methane. The ability of EPA to regulate methane from existing oil and gas operations under the Clean Air Act (CAA) is one of the most controversial aspects of the EPA statutory interpretations in CAA rules that are also subject to ongoing litigation. The debate over methane from oil and gas wells will continue to be on the agenda of BLM and other regulatory agencies. The new administration's environmental platform includes "aggressive methane pollution limits for new and existing oil and gas operations" (The Biden Plan for a Clean Energy Revolution and Environmental Justice).

PLF Position: The PLF will closely monitor any oil and gas rulemaking initiatives and provide comments on proposed rules during the public comment period as appropriate.

PAY RAISE AND COLA

Pay raises for federal employees and annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for retirees are not the same. On an annual basis, Congress has to actually appropriate a pay raise or adjustment for federal employees, based on increases in the private-sector labor market. If Congress defers its authority, the President then sets any pay adjustment. For 2021, Congress provided no pay raise for current federal employees in the omnibus spending package approved in December 2020. In their silence on a federal pay raise, Congress effectively endorsed the President's proposal submitted to Congress in February 2020 for a one percent federal pay raise for 2021. In contrast, annual COLAs to federal annuities, veteran's benefits, and Social Security are automatically calculated using the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) to keep pace for inflation. Neither Congress nor the President plays a role in determining the annual COLA. For 2021, the COLA increase for retirees will be 1.3 percent. The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association has supported legislation that would require the use of the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E), instead of the CPI-W, to calculate COLAs. If this legislation were to pass, it would result in slightly higher COLAs for retirees in the future.

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

The annual election for Officers and Board Members of the PLF was completed in December. This year, 94 percent of the votes for the 2021 Officers and Board Members were cast on-line with six percent voting by mail. No matter which way you voted, we wish to thank you.

Subsequent to the voting, Glen Collins resigned from the Board after many years of outstanding service to the PLF. Please see the article in this issue giving special recognition to Glen for the many contributions he has made to our organization.

Bob Anderson also has resigned as the State Representative for the Midwest and Eastern States. We thank him for his years of service and contributions to the Board. Jeff Holdren has been appointed to replace Bob. Thanks, Jeff, for stepping up.

In addition, Rosemary Thomas retired from the Board, and we thank her for her service.

Thanks to all of our Board Members and those who continue to serve the PLF and support the proper management of the public lands administered by BLM.

GEORGE LEA FOUNDER'S SCHOLARSHIP

Applications for the 2021 / 2022 George Lea Founders Scholarships will be accepted until March 19, 2021. Two \$5,000 scholarships will be awarded by the Public Lands Foundation to upper class or graduate-level students for the fall 2021 and spring 2022 semesters. The scholarships will be awarded to students pursuing post-secondary education in a natural resource management or public land policy field of study.

The scholarships honor George Lea, a former BLM Assistant Director and the founder in 1987 of the Public Lands Foundation. The scholarships awarded in 2021 will be the eighth in the series of awards.

Scholarship applications should be submitted electronically to dstout@publicland.org. Information about the scholarships, recent scholarship recipients,

and a downloadable application form is available on the PLF website, <https://publicland.org> under the “Programs” tab.

BLM LEADERSHIP

With the continued changes in the leadership positions of the BLM, we would like to again provide an update on the current Leadership of the 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
Deputy Director, Operations	Michael Nedd
Alaska State Office	Chad Padgett
Arizona State Office	Raymond Suazo
California State Office	Karen Mouritsen
Colorado State Office	Jaime Connell
Eastern States Office	Mitchell Leverette
Idaho State Office	John Ruhs
Montana State Office	John Mehlhoff
Nevada State Office	Jon Raby
New Mexico State Office	Steve Wells (<i>Acting</i>)
OR/WA State Office	Barry Bushue
Utah State Office	Greg Sheehan
Wyoming State Office	Kim Liebhauser (<i>Acting</i>)

BLM ASSISTANT DIRECTOR MARK LAMBRECHT



Mark Lambrecht
BLM Assistant Director

The BLM on December 3, 2020 announced the selection of Mark Lambrecht as the BLM Assistant Director for the National Conservation Lands and Community Partnerships office located at the BLM Headquarters office in Grand Junction, CO. He replaces Tom Heinlein who was the Acting Assistant Director. Mark was previously the Director of

Government Affairs with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has a close working relationship with BLM, the Forest Service, state agencies, and private land-owners on land conservation projects. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Lambrecht also played an important role in securing support for the recent passage of the Great American Outdoors Act and funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The BLM National Conservation Lands program office oversees the management of nearly 900 units of the National Landscape Conservation System and accounts for almost 10 percent of BLM’s total public lands and some 25 percent of the total annual visitors to BLM-managed sites. Lambrecht earned a Master’s degree in Resource Conservation from the University of Montana and a Bachelor’s degree in political Science from Gonzaga University.

BLM DIRECTOR OF LAW ENFORCEMENT ERIC KRILEY

The BLM on October 22, 2020 announced the selection of Eric Kriley as the BLM Director of the Office of Law Enforcement and Security. He replaces Shannon Tokos who has served as the Acting Director since February 2020. Kriley was previously a law enforcement professional with the State Department’s Diplomatic Security Service. He will take over the BLM law enforcement office that oversees some 270 rangers and special agents who are responsible for enforcing federal laws and protecting natural resources on the 245 million acres of public lands that BLM manages.



Eric Kriley
BLM Director of
Law Enforcement

He will be stationed at the BLM Headquarters Office in Grand Junction, CO. Kriley has more than 20 years of law enforcement experience at the Diplomatic Security Service, which is the law enforcement and security arm of the State Department. It employs about 2,500 special agents, security engineering officers, security technical specialists, and diplomatic

couriers stationed in the United States and at more than 270 locations worldwide, according to the State Department. He earned both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in criminology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and is a veteran of the U.S. Army Reserves Military Police Corps.

IN MEMORIAM

The PLF is committed to never forgetting the dedicated BLM employees 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.*

Eugene "Gene" Allison on April 11, 2018, in Wheat Ridge, CO. Gene served in the Army during the Korean War. After his service he attended Texas A&M and received an Engineering degree. He later received a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Northern Colorado. Gene worked as an engineer for the BLM and retired in 1988.

Robert "Bob" Walter Arndorfer on October 22, 2020, in Portland, OR. Bob was a forester by profession and worked in varied interdisciplinary positions during his 36 years with the Forest Service and the BLM in Oregon, Colorado, Washington, DC, and Alaska.

Clare Ray Baldwin on October 20, 2020, in Boise, ID. Clare began his first job with BLM as a summer

firefighter, which led to a 33-year career in the fire program in the Salmon, Burley, and Boise Districts in Idaho.

Harold B. Grayson on October 11, 2020, in Beaufort, SC. Harold began his federal career with the Job Corps in Idaho. He served in the BLM Budget Office in the Idaho State Office and the BLM Washington Office. When he retired from BLM he was a Branch Chief in the WO Division of Budget.

Frank Stevan Hissong on August 17, 2020, in Harrisonburg, VA. Frank was an Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War and retired from public service as an employee of the Department of the Interior and BLM in Washington, DC in 2005. He spent many years of his retirement as a substitute teacher in the local Harrisonburg and Rockingham County schools.

Richard Wood Hunter on November 27, 2020, in Cedar City, UT. He worked for 20 years with the BLM as a Range Technician in the Wild Horse and Burro program.

Jackson C. Johnson on November 4, 2020, in Boise, ID. Jack served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War and after discharge earned degrees from Arizona State University in Education and Resources Management. He worked for BLM for 30 years as a Range Conservationist and later used his GIS skills in resources management. He was also a member of BLM fire teams.

Randall "Randy" Phar Legler, Jr. on October 29, 2020, in Albuquerque, NM. Randy earned his B.S. degree in Wildlife Management from the University of Arizona and his M.S. degree in Wildlife Science from New Mexico State University. His career with the federal government spanned over 40 years with the National Park Service, Corps of Engineers, Fish and Wildlife Service, and BLM.

Marvin D. LeNoue on December 27, 2020, in Bozeman, MT. Marv was a U.S. Army veteran who served in Korea. He received a degree in Forestry from the University of Montana. Marv worked for BLM for some 33 years in various leadership positions throughout the agency, including Service Center Director and State Director and Associate State Director for Montana and Dakotas.

IN MEMORIAM

Stephen Paul Meszaros on November 6, 2020, in Phoenix, AZ. Steve received his Bachelor's degree from Syracuse University and a Master's degree from Arizona State University. He was an Air Force veteran and served in Vietnam. Steve was a cartographer with BLM in Arizona and a visual information specialist for NASA.

Georgiana Elinor McKinley Timm Miars on October 21, 2020, in Niles, MI. In 1984, she completed her Bachelor of Arts degree at Michigan State University and after graduation moved to Yuma, AZ and worked for BLM for several years before returning to Michigan.

Robert C. "Bob" Moline on March 9, 2020, in Gooding, ID. Bob enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1954 and served in the Korean War as a dental surgical assistant. Bob worked for BLM in the Idaho Shoshone District Office for 25 years, was an Area Manager, and also a member of a Wildfire Management Team spending numerous summers fighting fires in Alaska. He retired in October 1987.

William H. "Bill" Mortimer on December 22, 2020, in Casper, WY. Bill graduated from the University of Wyoming with a degree in Range Management and was a U.S. Army veteran. He had a 42-year career with BLM in Pinedale, Casper, and Worland, WY as well as Riverside and Barstow, CA. He was proud of his work in establishment of the BLM National Historic Trail Center in WY and after retirement became a member and President of the National Historic Trails Center Foundation.

Terrence O. Nickerson on November 2, 2020, in Medford, OR. Terry was a graduate of Oregon Technical Institute and spent his 30+ year career as a land surveyor for BLM.

Reinard Bryan Okeson on October 20, 2020, in Hillsboro, OR. He graduated from Oregon State University with a degree in Wildlife Biology. He worked for BLM as a range manager in Burns, OR, Phoenix, AZ, and Prineville, OR. After retirement he worked with Ducks Unlimited.

George Farren Pace on November 28, 2020, in

Lehi, UT. George served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War and received a purple heart medal during his service. He worked at Dugway Proving Grounds for 20 years and retired while working for BLM with 32 years of government service.

Jerry Rohnert on February 1, 2018, in Meridian, ID. Jerry served in the U.S. Navy for four years and earned a degree in Communications from Boise State University. He accepted a job as an audio-visual specialist with BLM where he worked for more than 25 years and was also a Type I fire incident information officer (IIO). After retirement, he continued to serve during the summers as an IIO for wildfires across the west.

Stella Rummel on November 7, 2020, in Bismarck, ND. Stella held numerous jobs during her life, including a clerk with BLM.

Neil Alan Simmons on December 14, 2020, in Salt Lake City, UT. Neil graduated from South Dakota School of Mines with a degree in Mining Engineering. He began his federal career with the Bureau of Mines in Pittsburgh, PA and moved to Price, UT in 1978 where he began his 32-year career as a Geologist with BLM. Toward the end of his career he transitioned to become a BLM GIS Coordinator.

Carol M. Thompson on November 15, 2020, in Albuquerque, NM. Carol graduated with a BA degree in Anthropology from Northwestern University and did graduate studies in Anthropology at the London School of Economics. She was a visiting lecturer at Utah State University at the beginning of her work with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in New Mexico. In 1978 she moved to Albuquerque and was employed as an Archaeologist and Technical Editor with BLM until 1982 when she was hired as a Technical Editor at the Air Force Weapons Laboratory at Kirkland AFB retiring in 1998.

Harold Clayton Durham "Hal" Vosen in October 2020, in Heron, MT. Hal attended the University of Idaho and majored in Forestry with a minor in Rangeland Science. After graduation, he began his career with BLM as a range conservationist

IN MEMORIUM

in Montana, Colorado, and New Mexico. In 1980 he moved to Miles City, MT and worked until his retirement in 2000.

James "Jim" Craig Wilkinson on October 23, 2020, in Grand Junction, CO. Jim graduated from Texas

A&M with a Geology degree and served in the U.S. Navy as a TopGun pilot. He worked for BLM as a Geologist in Arizona, Alaska, Montana, and Colorado and retired after more than 36 years of service. He was also a Certified Mineral Examiner and a Certified Review Mineral Examiner.

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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 if your donation is for the George Lea Founder's Scholarship, for the Student Congress Fund, or the newly established Executive Director 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.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SPLIT ESTATE

If you are a BLM retiree, you have heard of the term “Split Estate”—lands where all minerals are reserved to the United States and the non-mineral estate belongs to the “surface owner”. There are some 57 million acres of split estate on western BLM lands that by definition are “Public Lands”. These are lands originally conveyed under the Stock-Raising Homestead Act of 1916, where all minerals were reserved to the United States.

Section 209 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 provides authority for the conveyance of Split Estate, but the requirements are complicated, expensive for the surface owner, time consuming for BLM, and bureaucratic. Considering the millions of acres available, there were very few applicants under this provision.

In FLPMA classes for Realty Specialists at the BLM Training Center, we would spend time on and have fun honing in on section 307(a) of FLPMA which reads— The Secretary may conduct investigations, studies, and experiments, on his own initiative or in cooperation with others, involving the management, protection, development, acquisition, and conveying of the public lands. Students would ponder the importance of this section, especially the word “experiments”, as I never heard any manager in BLM mention it as an opportunity to change the way the public lands are managed.

My proposal is to convey the mineral estate, as an experiment under the authority in Section 307(a) of FLPMA, rather than Section 209. This idea could potentially add millions of dollars to the Treasury and additional millions in cost avoidance. It would also eliminate acrimony between landowners and BLM that now occurs during mining claim location, oil and gas drilling, sand and gravel operations, etc. Only current surface owners would be eligible to apply.

The proposal would convey the mineral estate for \$10 per acre with an overriding royalty (percent royalty TBD) of the gross value at the first point of sale of a marketable commodity. In 2008 or 2009,

the conveyance of Split Estate lands was a part of the Congressional budget deliberations of conveying the mineral estate for \$10 per acre, but with no overriding royalty. This was a poorly designed budget proposal and it died in Congress because it did not provide a provision to protect the public interests in perpetuity, as would an overriding royalty if minerals were ever produced on a conveyed split estate property.

The new owner of the mineral estate would control all exploration and extraction activities, and BLM would not be involved, except to collect an overriding royalty in the event that mineral extraction does eventually take place. No NEPA, no BLM minerals reports or appraisals, and no more surprises to the surface owner like happened in the past when a new mineral lessee or mining claimant shows up at their front door to develop the mineral resources.

I don’t think this sends a message that BLM or the PLF favors a carte blanche sale of all public lands. I am inviting readers to comment on this proposal.

Bob Anderson
Retired BLM Deputy Assistant Director
for Energy, Minerals, and Realty Management
Washington Office

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. Comments should be limited to no more than 500 words in length. In addition, members are encouraged to use the 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 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.

PUBLIC LANDS FOUNDATION GOALS

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

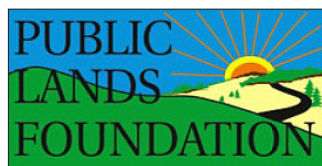
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In the event we are unable in the future to print and mail the Monitor, our newsletter will always be available on the PLF website. We also notify our members by email of the availability of the Monitor. Please ensure we have your current email address 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 PLF Member's Forum, message us at info@publicland.org, or call at 703-935-0916.

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