



THE PUBLIC LANDS Monitor

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SUMMER QUARTER 2021

2021 PLF ANNUAL MEETING VIRTUAL SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2021

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, and uncertainties about public health and travel, the PLF Executive Committee decided to hold the 2021 PLF Annual Meeting as a Virtual Meeting using ZOOM technology on September 13-15, 2021. We are looking at approximately two hours for each of the three days. The theme for this year's Annual Meeting will be **BLM's 75th Anniversary**.

The PLF Virtual Annual Meeting webpage provides meeting schedules and agendas along with links to our YouTube page where you can watch the proceedings of our meeting sessions. No registration is needed. You can ask questions or post comments while you watch. We will monitor the site and relay questions to speakers. The preliminary Agenda for the Virtual Meeting is as follows:

Monday, September 13, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Eastern Daylight Time BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

- Welcome, Opening Remarks, and PLF Update – Ed Shepard
- Development and Funding Raising – Courtney Lyons-Garcia
- Membership – George Stone
- NAFSR Update – Steve Ellis / Jim Caswell

Tuesday, September 14, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Eastern Daylight Time GENERAL MEETING—BLM 75TH ANNIVERSARY

- The First 75 Years – Speaker TBD
- The Next 25 Years – BLM Director (*invited*)
- Discussion

Wednesday, September 15, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Eastern Daylight Time BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

- PLF 2022 Proposed Budget – Dwight Hempel
- Approval of Audit & 990 – Dwight Hempel
- Approval of By-Laws Amendments – Beau McClure
- Awards – Ed Shepard
- Other Business

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The Public Lands Foundation advocates and works for the retention of America's Public Lands in public hands professionally and sustainably managed for responsible common use and enjoyment.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Ed Shepard

Finally, it appears that we are turning the corner on this terrible virus that has impacted so many people and created havoc to the Country. Slowly, it seems that things are beginning to open and get back to some degree of normalcy. Government offices are beginning to open and employees are beginning to develop new routines that take

into effect what was learned during the long closures. People want to celebrate, so let's celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Bureau of Land Management. This is an important milestone for the agency and one the Public Lands Foundation will be very involved. Courtney Lyons-Garcia has been busy working with BLM on several events throughout the year to recognize this important time in public land history. I encourage you to track upcoming events on the BLM or the PLF webpages and social media and attend any that may be occurring close to you.

Speaking of Courtney; wow, did our search committee do a great job finding us an Executive Director! Courtney has jumped right into her job and has brought her experience and skills from years of working with non-profits to leading this organizations. She has suggested many ways that we can improve our business practices and modernize our PLF's administrative work. She has reached out to the Board members to get their perspectives and to BLM to build a stronger partnership. She has also started raising funds and has a lot of ideas for doing that. Courtney, thanks for the great start; we appreciated you!

As we were preparing for the transition of administrations, we looked at the many position papers that the PLF has prepared throughout the years. While many of the issues addressed in the papers are still with us, we recognized that many were dated and needed to be refreshed to the needs of today. Other papers addressed issues that are not relevant today and are no longer needed, and others just needed affirmation that the issue is still relevant. Don Simpson took on the task of organizing a group to

review the position papers and prioritize which ones needed to be addressed first. He then reached out and found members that are experts on the issue and asked them to work on updating the papers. A team was formed that included Mary Jo Rugwell, Ed Roberson, and Eric Janes to take on the arduous task of reviewing all the rewrites and putting them into a consistent format. Once the papers are approved, George Stone gets them on the website. This is important work that is used to assist in our advocacy efforts for the public lands, BLM, and employees. I appreciate all the hard work that Don and many others have put into this. There is more to do so don't be surprised if Don reaches out to you and asks for your help.

The PLF recently received a very generous bequest from the Estate of the Johnson Family Trust. Kelly and Rebecca Johnson were great supporters of the PLF over the years and as part of their estate planning wanted to contribute to the work of the PLF. Kelly was one of our charter members and was an early BLM employee starting as a range conservationist and realty specialist in Arizona in the mid-1950s. He died in 2000 and Rebecca died in 2020. We greatly appreciate the Johnsons thinking of the PLF. We will be putting together a small group to develop recommendations on how to best use the funds from this bequest in a way that recognizes the Johnsons and their commitment to the PLF. The Board will be deciding on this at the virtual annual meeting in September.

Back in April, I made a challenge to the Board members to match my donation of \$250.00 to the George Lea Founders Scholarship Fund. This has been very successful and since the first of the year we have raised over \$15,000 with 47 PLF members and friends contributing, many contributing more than \$250. I encourage other members to join this effort and also contribute to the scholarship fund. Normally, we raise funds for the scholarship with the silent auction at the annual meeting. We were not able to do that last year and will not be able to this year due to the pandemic. A big thank you to all that contributed and for those who are considering contributing. We hope you will join us to help keep this important program running.

This year's annual meeting and board meeting will be held virtually again this year. At the time we had to make decisions on hotels and other arrangements,

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Summer greetings to you! As COVID restrictions wane, Americans are getting out of their house and on the road to enjoy their public lands. As this season of high visitation to our 248 million acres of public lands rolls on, the PLF is busy at work preparing for the Bureau of Land Management's 75th Anniversary.

The PLF will be engaged throughout the remainder of the year on this work. Starting in August, the PLF



will be hosting a series of online discussions with BLM and sponsors about major issues that impact the agency and will shape the work of the agency going forward. These

online sessions are open to the public so watch our website and social media for details as the fall approaches. We are also hosting online 75th Anniversary merchandise stores to help promote the Anniversary which we will advertise on social media as they become available. And finally, we are hosting a reception in Washington, D.C. in December as the signature celebration of the 75th Anniversary.

All of these are opportunities to engage the public in this milestone Anniversary for the agency that has long cared for our Nation's most amazing lands and most critical assets. Many of you have been part of this challenging and important work and we thank

you for your efforts on behalf of our Nation's public lands over the last 75 years.

As many of you know, the PLF hosts an archive database of BLM photos and documents. If you have any great photos, documents, or other items of major events in the history of BLM please go to the PLF archives website page at <https://publicland.org/about/archives/> to upload your information. Be sure to provide as much detail as possible, including the names of all people in your photos. Our PLF volunteer, Connie Stone, will review your records and determine if they are a duplicate or are eligible for the archive. We want to make sure our collection is as comprehensive as possible. Additionally, if you have the time and interest we have a wealth of photos that are unlabeled that need a keen eye to review and identify. Please contact us if you would like to volunteer for this effort!

The 75th Anniversary is a wonderful opportunity to let the public know the amazing work that BLM does on a daily basis. From caring for critical conservation habitat, to providing leading work in green energy, BLM is at the forefront of our Nation's collective legacy. The PLF is working daily to ensure that this milestone does not go by unnoticed. If you are interested in making a gift to support our work on the 75th Anniversary, please go to our website at www.publicland.org.

Again we thank you for your work as BLM employees and your support of the PLF as retirees. As COVID measures begin to lift, we hope to see you out in our public lands

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN *(continued)*

the pandemic was still surging, and we made the difficult decision to wait another year for a live meeting. The meeting will be held the week of September 13th. More information on the meeting can be found in this edition of the Monitor, and I hope you plan on tuning in. We avoid making the meeting more than a few hours each day as we know that many of you are *zoomed* out. I know I am.

The summer is already starting off very hot in much of the Country and the fire season has already be-

come very active in geographic areas that were not expected to be active until later in the summer. Our thoughts for a safe season are with the fire fighters and support teams that are out there managing these incidents.

I wish you all a safe and fun summer. As the pandemic winds down and things begin to open, I hope you can get out and catch up with family and friends that you may not have seen for some time. Enjoy!

2021 PLF ANNUAL MEETING *(continued)*

The PLF has a limited number of Zoom seats available for members who wish to speak or ask questions using Zoom's sidebar chat feature. To use Zoom, please register on our website's Virtual Annual Meeting page. Zoom seats are available on a first come / first served basis. Registrants will receive an email with the Zoom meeting web address, meeting ID and password. We recommend that registrants use a computer or tablet with a microphone and webcam assuming a Zoom seat is available. Please mute your microphone when you are not speaking. *Optional:* You do not have to download and install the Zoom application to participate, but you may wish to do so for a more robust viewing experience. Just sign up for a free Zoom account. The appropriate links are provided in the next column:



<https://publicland.org/events/2021-annual-meeting/>



<http://bit.ly/1rmYu9P>



<https://zoom.us/>

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

2021 – 2022 GEORGE LEA FOUNDER'S SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The PLF completed the review of applications and awarded the 2021-2022 George Lea Founders Scholarships for the eighth consecutive year. The \$5,000 scholarships were awarded this year to Tamera Breidenbach of Colorado State University and Matthew Podolinsky of the University of Utah. Scholarship funds will be applied to tuition and related expenses, beginning in the Fall of 2021.

Tamera is a Masters-level graduate student in Forest Sciences, with an emphasis on natural resource policy and public land management. Tamera's long-term career goals are to provide scientific expertise, knowledge, and applied research to policy makers and public land managers, particularly in response to a changing climate and climate adaptation. Tamera says a career path could be in the direction of government service, acting as a bridge between science, policy, and effective public land management, or working with non-profits to achieve consensus on adapting effective policy on Federal and other public lands.



Tamera Breidenbach
Scholarship Recipient

Matthew is a Masters-level graduate student in Parks, Recreation and Tourism. Matthew's graduate research is intended to provide beneficial information that can offer interventions and prevention measures necessary to reduce damage to, or loss of, rock art. Upon graduation, he intends to pursue employment with a Federal land-use agency or a State Parks position as a recreation planner or interpretive specialist. Since 2010, Matthew has had substantial seasonal employment as a Park Ranger with BLM, the Forest Service, National Park Service, and Bureau of Reclamation.



Matthew Podolinsky
Scholarship Recipient

Twenty-one students from nine universities and colleges in eight states applied for the 2021-2022 scholarships. Each of the applicants was very well-qualified, making for a challenging selection process. Each application was independently reviewed and rated by the PLF selection committee members Connie Stone, Ray Brady, and Dave Stout.

LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARDS – 2021 REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS

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. All PLF members and BLM employees are encouraged to submit nominations by August 1, 2021. Winners will be determined by the PLF Board of Directors, and will be announced and recognized soon after the submittal deadline.

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's Landscape Stewardship Award honors the work done by private citizens/groups who work to advance and sustain community-based stewardship on a landscape scale that includes, in whole or in part, BLM-administered lands. 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 and 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 organization, group or individual's achievements. The nomination form and guidelines can be found on the PLF website at www.publicland.org. Click on "Programs", then "Awards", then "Landscape Stewardship Awards/Certificate of Appreciation Recipients". Once there, you will find information about the award, candidates, nomination process/selection process,

evaluation factors, the nomination form, and the guidelines for nominations.

Please send nominations by August 1, 2021, by email to dmari@publicland.org.

PHOTO CONTEST ENTRY DEADLINE EXTENDED



Photo by Annie Spratt

The Public Lands Foundation photo contest for members has been extended to August 31, 2021 for entries. Entries can still be submitted online through the "PLF Photo Contest" link on the PLF website. PLF members are encouraged to submit their favorite photographs of a special landscape, plant or animal, natural resource subject, resources use, object or structure, or people enjoying the public lands or other Federal lands. The grand prize winner will receive a waiver of one-year of the PLF annual membership fee and a first place and second place winner will be selected for each of the categories of the photo contest.

Entries will be judged based on creativity, quality and composition, and their overall impact. The grand prize winner and winners in each category of photography will be selected by a panel of volunteer judges. We thank the following panel of judges for offering their assistance and support to the PLF photo contest.

Bob Wick is a BLM Wilderness Program Specialist and renowned photographer in Sacramento, CA.

Michelle Barret currently serves as Vice President Board of Directors for the Crossroads Film Society. Previously, she served BLM as a Senior Public Affairs Specialist for 34 years.

Don Smurthwaite served as Communications Director at the BLM Idaho State Office and at the National Interagency Fire Center.

STUDENT CONGRESS 2022

The PLF Board recently approved a proposal to ensure the long-term viability of the Student Congress. The PLF will partner with the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) and the Andrus Center at Boise State University to sponsor a Student Congress in 2022, named in honor of Dr. John Freemuth. The ultimate goal is to create an endowment to fund the John Freemuth Student Congress in perpetuity, and for the Andrus Center to take over the lead responsibility for planning and holding future Student Congresses. This arrangement will ensure the continuation of the Student Congress and substantially expand partnership opportunities as well as the visibility and impact of the Student Congress.

The PLF lost a great friend and colleague with the passing of Dr. John Freemuth in May 2020. At the time of his death, John was the Endowed Chair of the Cecil Andrus Center for Environmental Policy and Public Lands and a distinguished professor of public policy at Boise State University. He was a great friend of BLM and a strong advocate for the PLF mission of keeping public lands in public hands and a strong proponent of professional management of those lands by BLM. John was a big part of the first PLF Student Congress in 2012 and in each of the three succeeding Student Congresses in 2014, 2016, and 2018. After skipping 2020, the Student Congress is coming back to life. John believed in the goals of attracting youth to natural resources and public land management and the idea of providing BLM with input from a youth perspective, which it might not otherwise hear. Much of the success of the Student Congress is due to John's ideas and in providing high quality students.

Mike Ferguson (PLF Student Congress Coordinator) had previously been discussing ways to get the Andrus Center directly involved in the future of the Student Congress. Since John's death last year, Jenna Whitlock (PLF) and Mike Ferguson have had conversations with Tracy Andrus, Sherri Freemuth (John's wife) and several other people who wanted to honor John's legacy and ensure perpetual continuation of the Student Congress. The Andrus Center has substantial fundraising capabilities, broad contacts with other Universities and Centers across the country, and an understanding of the University system. This expertise could be used to explore options such as course credit for Student Congress participation, University sponsorship of student participants, and holding Federal career "boot camps" to help students in their search for jobs with the Federal government. The Andrus Center, however, does not currently have the resources to plan and conduct the Student Congress. The PLF, however, does have the experience in planning the Student Congress and volunteers with agency contacts interested in continuing to help plan future Student Congresses.

The PLF will continue to be deeply involved in planning and conducting all future Student Congresses. The initial planning team for 2022 is currently being assembled. It will include three or four PLF members, including the new Executive Director—Courtney Lyons-Garcia, two or three members of NAFSR, and one or two representatives from the Andrus Center/Boise State University. The team will add members as appropriate based on the selected topic for the next Student Congress. At the same time Courtney will begin working with the Andrus Center, and possibly a NAFSR contact, on a fundraising strategy.

Updated plans will be posted on the PLF website as we take the Student Congress to the next level of visibility and impact, as well as, honor Dr. John Freemuth's legacy in the process.

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.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATE

The PLF continues to monitor Congressional legislation, Federal rulemaking activities, and Executive Orders pertaining to the Department of the Interior, BLM, and public lands management. 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 our Legislation and Regulations webpage on our website under the “Advocacy” link and providing updates in the Monitor on significant actions. 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 time and expertise to this valuable advocacy work.



Photo by Ray Brady

EXECUTIVE ORDER 13990 PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT AND RESTORING SCIENCE TO TACKLE THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Status: Signed by the President on January 20, 2021.

Summary: Section 2 of the EO requires the review of all agency actions, including regulations and policies, promulgated or issued between January 20, 2017 and January 20, 2021. This includes a proposed rule for reducing methane emissions in the oil and gas sector. *The CEQ on February 19, 2021 published a Notice in the FR to rescind previous draft guidance issued in June 2019 on the consideration of greenhouse gas emissions in NEPA documents. The CEQ is expected to issue revised and updated guidance in the near future.*

Section 3 of the EO requires the Secretary to conduct a review within 60 days of the boundary modifications made on December 4, 2017 of the Bears Ears National Monument and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and provide a report and recommendations to the President. *The Secretary visited Utah in early April for several days of field visits, listening sessions, briefings and meetings with BLM and the Forest Service, elected officials, Tribal leaders, and stakeholders as part of the review process for the Monument boundaries and future management plans. The Department on June 1, 2021 submitted a confidential report to the White House on its recommendations in response to the EO.*

Section 4 of the EO requires the Secretary to place a temporary moratorium on all activities relating to implementation of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program in Alaska and conduct, as appropriate, a new and comprehensive analysis of the potential impacts of the oil and gas program. *The Secretary on June 1, 2021 issued Secretary Order 3401 to suspend all leases and halt all activities related to the oil and gas program in ANWR and within 60 days publish a Notice of Intent to conduct a new and comprehensive analysis of the environmental impacts of the program in the Arctic Refuge.*

PLF Position: The PLF will be closely tracking these actions and providing comments during any public comment period, as appropriate.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 14008 TACKLING THE CLIMATE CRISIS AT HOME AND ABROAD

Status: Signed by the President on January 27, 2021.

Summary: Section 207 of the EO requires the Secretary to review renewable energy siting and permitting processes on the public lands and identify steps that can be taken to increase renewable energy production on the public lands. *The Appropriations Act of 2021 set a goal to approve 25 gigawatts of wind, solar, and geothermal energy projects on the public lands by 2025 – a three fold increase in the*

number of projects currently approved on the public lands. The BLM FY 2022 Budget request includes an increase of \$25.0 million to promote and facilitate increased renewable energy development, including \$14.0 million in the Renewable Energy program and \$11.0 million in the Resource Management Planning program.

Section 208 of the EO requires the Secretary to pause new oil and gas leases on the public lands pending completion of a comprehensive review and reconsideration of Federal permitting and leasing practices and whether to adjust royalties associated with coal, oil, and gas resources extracted from the public lands. *The Secretary hosted a virtual forum on March 25, 2021 to provide an opportunity for the Department of the Interior, industry and stakeholder interest groups to discuss oil and gas development on the public lands. Information from the forum will help in preparation of an interim report on the oil and gas program that is expected to be completed in early summer. Senator Rosen (D-NV) and Senator Grassley (R-IA) introduced the Fair Return for Public Lands Act (S. 624) on March 10, 2021, to increase royalty rates for oil and gas leases on Federal lands and have requested that these provisions be included in the recommendations of the report prepared by the Secretary. The Western Energy Alliance filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for Wyoming challenging the EO as exceeding presidential authority and a violation of the Mineral Leasing Act, NEPA and FLPMA. Lawsuits were also filed by 13 States over the administration's temporary halt to oil and gas leasing on public lands and offshore waters. The U.S. District Court of Louisiana on June 15, 2021 issued an Order that granted a Preliminary Injunction on the pause of the oil and gas leasing program.*

Section 215 of the EO requires the Secretary to prepare within 90 days a strategy for creating a Civilian Climate Corps of conservation workers. *The BLM FY 2022 Budget request includes an increase of \$16.5 million to help establish and support the Civilian Climate Corps. This funding request includes funding in the Rangeland Management, Forest Management, Cultural Resources, Wildlife Management, Recreation and Wilderness Management, Abandoned Mine Lands, and National Monuments and Conservation Areas programs.*

Section 216 of the EO requires the Secretary to prepare a report within 90 days on steps that can be taken to achieve a goal of conserving at least 30 percent of our Nation's land and waters by the year 2030. *The Department of the Interior, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, and Council of Environmental Quality, submitted a report to the National Climate Task Force on May 6, 2021*

in response to this section of the EO. The report, "Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful", outlines eight principals for local collaborative efforts to conserve and restore the lands and waters that are important to all Americans. The report identified the importance of increasing access to public lands for outdoor recreation, incentivizing voluntary conservation efforts, and creating jobs through the Civilian Climate Corps.

PLF Position: The PLF will be closely tracking these actions and providing comments during any public comment period, as appropriate.

LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES, CONSERVATION, AND AMERICAN LANDS (LOCAL) ACT – H.R. 2081

Bill Status: Congresswoman Boebert (R-CO) introduced on March 19, 2021.

Bill Summary: The legislation mandates that the BLM Headquarters remain located in Grand Junction, CO and requires the Secretary to conduct a study on the feasibility of relocating more BLM positions to Grand Junction or other western States. A report on the study is to be provided to Congress not later than 365 days after enactment of the Act.

PLF Position: The PLF has updated the Position Statement on the BLM Headquarters that recommends the return of BLM senior leadership to Washington, D.C. and establish a team of career professionals to develop a functional statement for the BLM Headquarters office and a table of organization and positions necessary to support those functions.

PROTECTING AMERICA'S WILDERNESS AND PUBLIC LANDS ACT – H.R. 803

Bill Status: Passed full House on February 26, 2021 and sent to Senate for consideration.

Bill Summary: The legislative package includes eight bills addressing lands in Arizona, California, Colorado, and Washington and would establish nearly 1.5 million acres of new wilderness areas and incorporate more than 1,000 river miles into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The package includes the Grand Canyon Protection Act that would bar new uranium mining claims on some one million acres of land north and south of the Grand Canyon and the Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy Act that would limit oil and gas leasing on 200,000 acres in the Thompson Divide area of western Colorado.

PLF Position: The PLF has taken no position on the legislation.

FILM PERMIT REGULATIONS – 43 CFR PART 5

Rule Status: Film permit regulations for BLM, NPS, and FWS were issued by Interior on August 22, 2013. On January 22, 2021, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia ruled that it is unconstitutional for NPS to require permits or charge fees for commercial filming on Federal land, as “filmmaking constitutes a form of expressive speech protected by the First Amendment”. The Court issued a permanent injunction enjoining the permit and fee requirements for commercial filming. *Senator Barrasso (R-WY), on May 13, 2021, introduced the Federal Interior Land Media Act – FILM Act, that would exempt certain video, digital, and audio recording activities from fees and permitting requirements on lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior and streamline permit processing when permits are deemed necessary.*

Rule Summary: Congress in 2000 passed legislation (P.L. 106-206) that directed the Secretary of the Interior to require permits and develop a consistent fee structure for commercial filming activities on Federal lands. Pursuant to the law, Interior in August 2013 issued final 43 CFR Part 5 film permit regulations that apply to BLM, NPS, and FWS. The January 2021 District Court ruling found that the commercial filming provisions of the regulations were unconstitutional. The Court did however note “that a more targeted permitting regime for commercial filming, which is more closely connected to the threat posed by large groups and heavy filming equipment, may pass constitutional muster in the future.” It is expected that the Department will update these regulations in response to the Court’s decision.

PLF Position: The PLF will closely monitor any Interior or BLM film permit rulemaking effort and provide comments on proposed rules during the public comment period as appropriate.

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. Congress provided the BLM with \$115.7 million in funding for 2021 to support this program plan. *The BLM 2022 Budget request includes a \$36.8 million increase in the WH&B program.*

PLF Position: The PLF will be closely tracking this proposed rule and providing comments during the public comment period. The PLF in April 2021 provided a recommendation to Appropriations Committee staff for an increase of \$32 million in WH&B funding for 2022 to support the 5-year program plan.

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

Rule Status: Final rule published November 18, 2016. 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 Court’s decision concluded that BLM exceeded its statutory authority since the rule was grounded in air quality issues and impinged on EPA’s authorities under the Clean Air Act. The President on January 20, 2021, issued an Executive Order (see above) regarding protecting public health and the environment that included a provision to consider regulations for reducing methane emissions in the oil and gas sector.

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 EPA’s 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.

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.

BLM DIRECTOR NOMINATION

The White House on April 22, 2021 announced the nomination of Tracy Stone-Manning for the position of Director of the Bureau of Land Management. This nomination requires confirmation by the Senate and a hearing before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee was held on June 8, 2021. Stone-Manning has deep ties to Montana and understands western public land issues. She was a former Director of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Chief of Staff to former Governor Steve Bullock (D), and Regional Director and Senior Advisor to Senator Jon Tester (D). She was most recently a senior advisor for conservation policy at the National Wildlife Federation. Early in her career she led the Clark Fork Coalition, a regional conservation organization, as it advocated for Superfund



Tracy Stone-Manning
BLM Director Nominee

cleanup efforts in Montana. She holds a MS degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Montana and a BA from the University of Maryland.

BLM LEADERSHIP

With the continued changes in the leadership positions of BLM, we would like to again 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	Nada Culver
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	Melanie Barnes (<i>Acting</i>)
OR/WA State Office	Barry Bushue
Utah State Office	Greg Sheehan
Wyoming State Office	Kim Liebhauser (<i>Acting</i>)

IN MEMORIAM

The PLF is committed to never forgetting the dedicated employees of the BLM who have left us. We do so on our website's Memorial Wall and by publishing names of those who passed away in the Monitor. If you have a death to report, please email us at obits@publicland.org, preferably with a link to or copy of an obituary. In addition, we know that many of our Facebook followers are also members of the separate "Remembering BLM" private Facebook group. Please be aware that the private Facebook group is not affiliated with the PLF. You can rely on the PLF to keep you informed of topical news on the public PLF Facebook page, our website, other social media sites and the Monitor newsletter.

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

Cindy J. Abeyta-Puryear in April 2021, in Durango, CO. Cindy worked early in her career with the Forest Service and National Park Service in Colorado and later worked for several years with BLM in Albuquerque, NM.

Lewis "Paul" Applegate on May 11, 2021, in Albuquerque, NM. Paul earned a BA degree in Botany

at Utah State University. He had a long career with BLM and retired in 1987 as District Manager in Albuquerque.

Louis "Louie" Baca on May 7, 2021, in Santa Fe, NM. Louie served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and later graduated from the College of Santa Fe with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics.

IN MEMORIAM *(continued)*

After receiving his degree he had a long career in state and Federal government in the computer field. Louie retired from state government in 1985 and went to work for BLM in NM retiring in 1998.

Fitzroy “Art” Belcher on May 16, 2021, in Meridian, ID. Art served in the U.S. Army in the Korean War. After the war he finished his degree in Forestry from the University of Montana. Art had a long career with BLM in the wildland fire program in Montana and Wyoming. He rose to the position of Fire Director in Washington, D.C. and accepted a position in the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, ID in 1978.

Jesse Sanchez Berain on April 10, 2021, in Meridian, ID. Jesse served in the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army in Korea. He worked for BLM and retired as the Idaho State Office Equal Opportunity Officer. He also served as the Director of both the Idaho State Commission on Human Rights and Idaho State Commission on Aging, and was an Idaho State Legislator.

Marganna “Janna” L. Dean Bottoms on April 14, 2021, in El Paso, TX. Janna moved to Alaska after her marriage in 1975 and worked for BLM, the Department of Defense, and TransAmerica Title in Fairbanks, AK.

Erick Campbell on April 1, 2021, in Vancouver, WA. During his 30-year career with BLM he was the first Manager for the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area designated in 1986. He retired in 2005 as the State Wildlife Program Lead in the BLM Oregon State Office.

James D. Claffin on September 10, 2014, in Cheyenne, WY. Jim worked for the BLM Cadastral Survey program for over 30 years, retiring as Chief Cadastral Surveyor for Montana and the Dakotas in 2013.

Larry Roland Crane on April 14, 2021, in Anchorage, AK. Larry retired from BLM after 20 years in the Law Enforcement program.

Gary Duane Long on June 23, 2021, in Cheyenne, WY. Gary was a veteran of the U.S. Army and graduated from the University of Wyoming with a degree in Geography and Recreation. He worked as an Outdoor Recreation Planner and during his 33-year career with BLM he worked in Rawlins, Casper, Lander, Anchorage, and the Wyoming State Office

in Cheyenne. He was involved in establishment of the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper and the National Bighorn Sheep Center in Dubois. Gary was also involved with the National Outdoor Leadership School in Lander. After retirement in 2007 he worked as a visual resource management consultant with mitigating impacts of o&g development in western Wyoming and Colorado.

Prisilla Madrid Fields on May 15, 2021, in Santa Fe, NM. Prisilla worked for BLM in California and New Mexico and retired from the National Park Service in 1988.

Larry Eugene Gass on April 19, 2021, in St. George, UT. Larry was a veteran of the Korean War and attended Southern Utah State College and Utah State University where he received a Bachelor’s degree in Range Management. He worked for the Forest Service and BLM.

Marcus Frank Gress on January 23, 2021, in Meridian, ID. Marc was in the National Guard for 25 years, where he attended officer training school and retired as a Major. He also worked for BLM for 39 years as a Procurement Analyst and after retirement became an independent contractor for BLM. He worked in South Dakota, Montana and Idaho.

Lavern “Vern” Henry Hennings on May 6, 2021, in Thatcher, AZ. Vern worked for BLM as the Warehouse Manager in Safford, AZ and retired in 1997.

Gerry Hillier on June 23, 2021, in Riverside, CA. Gerry graduated from Washington State University. He had a long career with BLM working in Susanville, CA; Baker and Prineville, OR; Billings, MT; Rock Springs, WY; Salt Lake City, UT; and Riverside, CA. He was the District Manager of the California Desert District when he retired. After retiring he started a consulting business and was instrumental in establishing the QuadState Local Governments Authority of counties in AZ, CA, NV, and UT and was serving as the Executive Director of the Authority at the time of his passing.

Kirby Kline on April 10, 2021, in Montrose, CO. Kirby studied Business Management at Colorado State University and worked for BLM for many years. He was active in developing the Youth Conservation Corps and recreational trails and campgrounds in New Mexico.

IN MEMORIAM *(continued)*

Roy Gay Leedy on April 13, 2021, in Billings, MT. Roy served in the Korean War. He was a BLM Cadastral Surveyor for 34 years retiring in Montana.

Kenneth “Ken” Edward Miller on May 20, 2021, in Star, ID. Ken earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Montana and served for 30 years in the Navy, Army, and National Guard. He began his BLM career as a soil scientist in Ely, NV and retired in 2012 as the District Manager in Elko, NV.

Bruce A. Miner on September 28, 2006, in Rolla, MO. Bruce, also known as “The Red Fox”, was a Surveying Technician for the BLM Eastern States Office from 1977 until 2006. He also worked in the WH&B program toward the end of his BLM career.

Danny Clinton Miner on April 12, 2021, in Cottage Grove, OR. Dan worked for BLM for several years in Oregon.

Ronald Phillip Napoles on April 30, 2021, in Bishop, CA. Ron was a member of the BLM Kern Valley Interagency Hotshot Crew and advanced over his career from crew member to Captain and ultimately to Superintendent. In 2010, he transferred to the BLM Bishop Field Office and worked as a dispatcher and Recreation Park Ranger until retiring in February 2021.

Arnold Edward Petty on March 26, 2021, in Port Republic, MD. Arnold was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and a graduate of William and Mary College. His early professional career started with Price Waterhouse, where he had many interesting auditing assignments, most notably auditing Alcatraz prison and recommending its closure, and auditing the assets of Marjorie Merriweather Post for several years. When auditing required more travel than he was willing to do, he joined the Federal government and remained in public service until his retirement. As a BLM employee he rose through the ranks to become Deputy Director, and was one of the first to achieve Senior Executive Service rank.

Rita Schrader on May 15, 2021, in Billings, MT. Rita served in the U.S. Army and worked for several years in the BLM Montana State Office.

Betty Ann Slocum on February 28, 2021, in Las Vegas, NV. Betty worked for many years with BLM in Las Vegas.

Gordon Richard “Dick” Staker on May 18, 2021, in Cedar City, UT. Gordon graduated from Snow College and Utah State University in Natural Resources Management and was also a graduate of the University of Montana School of Administrative Leadership. He was a member of the Utah National Guard and activated during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He retired from BLM in 1995 after 37 years of Federal service. He participated in the Department of the Interior’s Management Development Program in Washington, D.C. and worked in the BLM Legislation and Regulations Office. He was an Area Manager in Cedar City, UT and served as District Manager in Baker, OR and Cedar City, UT and as Chief of Resources in the Oregon State Office.

William “Bill” Daniel Torgersen (Torgie) on March 29, 2021, in Liberty Lakes, OR. Bill graduated with a degree in Forestry from the University of Minnesota. He began his career with BLM shortly after graduation. He worked in Bend, OR and Butte, MT before accepting a position with the Department of the Interior in Washington, DC. His last career move was a transfer back to Oregon, where he retired after 39 years with BLM.

Gilbert “Guero” Gene Valencia on October 24, 2020, in Las Cruces, NM. Guero worked for BLM in Las Cruces as a draftsman for some 10 years.

Montford “Monty” Woody on April 11, 2021, in Santa Fe, NM. Monty served in the U.S. Army and was a graduate of New Mexico State University. He worked for BLM for 13 years in Albuquerque, NM and Lander, WY. He retired from the New Mexico Game and Fish Department in 2000.

Gary Leonard Wyke on April 10, 2021, in Boise, ID. Gary attended the U.S. Naval Academy and finished his military service as a Naval Reservist in California. He earned a BA in English from the University of California Berkeley and later Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Forestry. He retired from BLM in Boise after over 30 years of service. He started with BLM as a Range Con in the Folsom District, then to the Rawlins District, and then to the Idaho State Office where he retired as the State Planning and Environmental Coordinator.

DONATIONS

KELLY JOHNSON ESTATE DONATION PLF APPRECIATION

The Public Lands Foundation greatly appreciates and wishes to provide thanks for the very generous donation recently received from the Kelly R. Johnson estate.

Kelly R. Johnson joined BLM in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 1953 upon graduation from New Mexico State University. That same year, four BLM employees, including Kelly, were transferred to open an office in Phoenix, Arizona. Kelly worked as a Range Manager in the Phoenix District Office and as a Realty Specialist in the Arizona State Office until 1977 when he took early retirement to become Arizona's Deputy State Land Commissioner. He retired from the State Land Department in 1985 and he and his wife, Becky, had a great retirement until his death on February 11, 2000.

Kelly was instrumental in setting aside BLM lands and helping to set up several large county parks, which are heavily used today, including McDowell Mountain Park, in Scottsdale, Arizona. Kelly was a Charter Member of the Public Lands Foundation and a strong supporter of what the PLF was trying to accomplish.

Much of the above information was provided by Kelly's wife, Rebecca (Becky), in August 2018, as she made a donation to the PLF in memory of Kelly.

GEORGE LEA FOUNDER'S SCHOLARSHIP

The PLF continues to request donations to support the George Lea Founder's Scholarship fund. We hope members will join the Board in making a special contribution to the scholarship fund. Two \$5,000 scholarships were granted this year to deserving students, however the fund needs to be replenished to be able to continue to offer these scholarships each year.

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.



The PLF is a benefiting non-profit organization under the AmazonSmile charity program. You can help the Public Lands Foundation while you do your everyday shopping. Simply go to smile.amazon.com and select the Public Lands Foundation as your charity of choice. Proceeds from every purchase will benefit our work. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your purchases to the PLF. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon that you all know, with the same products, same prices, and same service. Thank you for your contributions!

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PROFESSIONALISM IN BLM

The Public Lands Foundation has always supported professionalism by all of its employees. Article II of PLF's By-laws states that one of our primary goals is to "Encourage professionalism among BLM employees and support the use of professional employees throughout the BLM, including top management positions." This includes the Director. The BLM has had 16 Directors since the passage of FLPMA in 1976, although several were for a very short term as Acting Director. By my count, eight were non-political professionals. The point is that all past Directors have not been political appointees as some members of the Senate will suggest.

If the wording of FLPMA as to the qualifications of the Director were followed, only professional land managers would be nominated. Section 301 of FLPMA states "Appointments to the position of Director shall **hereafter** be made by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Director of the Bureau shall have a broad background and substantial experience in public land and natural resource management." The operating word here is "**hereafter**". In 1976 when FLPMA became law the Director was Curt Berklund. Curt ran a successful logging company in Idaho before being Director, not a professional appointee. It was recognized that if FLPMA passes with the above qualifications that Curt would not pass mustard. It was the intent of Congress to have the Director be a professional land manager with broad background and substantial experience and so the wording was changed to protect Curt. At the time that this was going on I was the BLM Deputy Assistant Director for Resources and witnessed the adding of the **hereafter** wording.

It is clear to me that the intent of Congress, while wanting the authority to approve the BLM nominee,

they also wanted a professional land manager as the BLM Director. When an Administration makes the BLM Director a political position it lessens the importance of professionalism of BLM as an agency and its employees. All of which impacts the status of a federal program worthy of recognition and budgets.

The sad part of all of this is that the Chief of the Forest Service, with very similar responsibilities to BLM, does not require Senate confirmation.

George Lea, Past President and Founder
McLean, Virginia

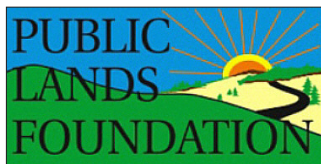
The Monitor is what we make it and we encourage you to provide Letters to the Editor or provide other reviews and comments on articles included in your newsletter. It is important to hear from our membership, and if you like something or don't like something, let us know. If you do send an e-mail to 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 e-mail 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 posting of Letters to the Editor.

Do We Have Your Current Contact Information?

Please help us keep our records current and ensure we have your current email address on file. 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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WHAT'S INSIDE?

2021 PLF Annual Meeting–Virtual	1
President’s Column	2
Executive Director’s Message	3
2021-22 George Lea Founder’s Scholarships	4
Landscape Stewardship Awards–2021	5
Photo Contest	5
Student Congress	6
Legislative and Regulatory Update	7-9
BLM Leadership and Director Nominee	10
In Memoriam	10-12
Donations	13-14
Letters to the Editor	15



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