



Public Lands Foundation

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



PHOTO: Bob Wick/ Desolation Canyon Wilderness Area BLM Utah

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mary Jo Rugwell, *President*
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Don Simpson, *Vice President*
Timnath, Colorado

Beau McClure, *Vice President*
for Operations and Arizona
State Representative
Phoenix, Arizona

Ray Brady, *Vice President for*
DC Affairs and Secretary
Oak Hill, VA

Kim Harb, *Treasurer*
Arlington, Virginia

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

George Lea, *Founder,*
McLean, VA

Tom Allen,
Grand Junction, Colorado

Dean Bibles,
San Antonio, Texas

Henri Bisson,
Tucson, Arizona

Jim Currivan,
Reno, Nevada

Mike Ferguson,
Phoenix, Arizona

Walt George,
Cheyenne, Wyoming

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Barron Bail, *Washington*

Butch Hayes, *Nevada*

Jeff Holdren, *Midwest and*
Eastern States

Richard Hopkins, *Montana*

Jesse Juen, *New Mexico*

Bill Lamb, *Utah*

Bill LeBarron, *Wyoming*

Jerry Magee, *Oregon*

Bob Moore, *Colorado*

Jenna Whitlock, *Idaho*

Sharon Wilson, *Alaska*

Thomas Zale, *California*

Dwight Hempel, *Treasurer*
Blue Diamond, Nevada

Eric Janes,
Mancos, Colorado

AnnaFaith Jorgensen,
Richmond, Rhode Island

John Kwiatkowski,
Powell, Wyoming

Van Manning,
Surprise, Arizona

Dave Mari,
Lewistown, Montana

Mat Millenbach,
Portland, Oregon

Tim O'Brien,
Las Vegas, Nevada

Ed Shepard,
Newberg, Oregon

George Stone,
Lake Frederick, Virginia

Richard Whitley,
Ashland, Oregon

Maggie Wyatt,
Grand Junction, Colorado

Elaine Zielinski,
Scottsdale, Arizona

EX-OFFICIO REPRESENTATIVES

Jim Caswell,
National Association of
Forest Service Retirees

STAFF

Courtney Lyons-Garcia,
Executive Director

President's Message



Dear Friends,

It is an honor to serve as the President of the Public Lands Foundation (PLF). While Courtney Lyons-Garcia, our part-time Executive Director, has done amazing work for the organization, PLF remains principally an engine that is fueled by the passion and efforts of volunteer members at all levels. I am constantly amazed at and grateful for the quality and quantity of the work accomplished to further our BLM and public lands advocacy mission.

PLF again met virtually in 2021 as the country was still dealing with the impacts of the global pandemic. Since there would be no cost to travel to an in-person meeting, Past President Ed Shepard asked the Board to instead contribute to the George Lea scholarship fund. The Board members came through and PLF was again able to award two scholarships in both 2021 and 2022.

In 2022, PLF engaged with the BLM in a variety of ways. PLF and the BLM renewed our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in January during our first meeting with BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning. PLF then hosted two receptions on behalf of the BLM, one in Washington, D.C., and one in Casper, Wyoming. PLF is partnering with the BLM on a History Project which will involve digitizing vital records in the PLF Glendon E. Collins Archive located at the BLM National Training Center in Phoenix, Arizona. The PLF also met virtually during the year with BLM Leadership to strengthen ties.

PLF continues advocating on behalf of the BLM and public lands. We submitted testimony on BLM's FY 2023 Appropriations to the House Appropriations Subcommittee and the Senate Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations. We have collaborated with other organizations such as the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR), American Wildlife Conservation Partners (AWCP) and Society of American Foresters (SAF) on public lands issues. Additionally, PLF revised its suite of Position Statements which are posted on the website.

After a three-year pause, the PLF was finally able to meet in person in Grand Junction, Colorado, from September 20-23. The theme was managing e-bike use and while the weather derailed our field trip, the District and Field Office staffs pivoted beautifully and provided great information indoors. There were many excellent presentations, including one by the BLM Director. At the banquet, PLF presented its annual awards and provided an outstanding opportunity for members to connect in person once again. The Planning Committee consisting of Beau McClure, Bob Moore, Tom Allen, Maggie Wyatt and Eric Janes did a fantastic job on the meeting and deserve our thanks for their herculean efforts.

The fifth Biennial Student Congress was held October 3-6 in Boise, Idaho. The event is now known as The John Freemuth Student Congress to memorialize the contributions of Dr. Freemuth to public policy and public lands management. In addition, PLF partnered with both the NAFSR and the Andrus Center for Public Policy to host the Congress. As with all previous iterations, the Student Congress was a tremendous success.

Finally, the PLF celebrated its 35th birthday in 2022 while its founder, George Lea, celebrated his 95th birthday. Both milestones are laudable. For the PLF to continue into its next 35 years, it is vitally important that we grow both our financial and membership bases. The work of the Development Committee and the Membership Committee has been designed to do exactly that. We applaud their efforts, but it is up to each of us to assist with this important task.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Rugwell

Front Cover:

Red Cliffs, NCA Utah

Photo by Bob Wick

Back Cover:

Upper Missouri WSR, Montana

Photo by Bob Wick



2022: A Return to In-Person Events

As PLF helped the BLM celebrate its 75th year, COVID restrictions began to be lifted and in-person events resumed. This included two events that PLF hosted and trips to Washington DC to work on projects with the BLM and our partners.

In January PLF President Mary Jo Rugwell, Past President Ed Shepard and Executive Director Courtney Lyons-Garcia met with BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning and her staff in Washington DC. A new Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the BLM and PLF continuing our long history of collaboration for the betterment of our public lands.

In March PLF hosted a reception for the 75th anniversary of the BLM in Washington DC. Congressman Lowenthal of California gave remarks, as did our board president Mary Jo Rugwell and BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning. PLF founder George Lea was in attendance at this celebratory evening. This was also the public debut of the new Foundation for America's Public Lands and their four founding board members were in attendance. President Rugwell and Executive Director Lyons-Garcia addressed the new board at their first meeting regarding PLF and potential partnerships between the two organizations.

In May PLF hosted its final reception of the 75th anniversary celebrations at the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming, as part of the Outdoor Writers Association of America annual conference. This evening was highlighted by remarks from BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning and the celebration went long into the evening.

PLF is proud to have been a central resource for the BLM and host for events during the 75th anniversary. We greatly appreciate the resources provided by our sponsors for the celebrations.

Advocacy

The PLF works year-round on advocacy outreach activities. We pursue this advocacy mission by remaining current on public land issues and policies, prepare Position Statements, and communicate our concerns and recommendations to the BLM, Congress, stakeholder interest groups and the general public, and respond to media inquiries. We testify before Congress and submit written testimony on budget, legislation, and policy matters affecting the BLM and the public lands. The PLF prepared an Advocacy brochure to support our Advocacy outreach efforts in 2023 and 2024. Priority Advocacy issues included Rebuilding the BLM, Public Land Access, Public Land Recreation, Special Areas Management, and Renewable Energy.

FY 2023 BLM BUDGET

The PLF provided written testimony on the BLM Fiscal Year 2023 proposed budget to both the Senate and House Subcommittees on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. Testimony included recommendations for additional funding to rebuild the BLM after the failures and loss of significant staff from the BLM headquarters reorganization effort in 2019 and 2020, funding to support the sustainable and balanced development of both traditional and renewable energy resources and associated infrastructure development on the public lands, funding to support collaborative sagebrush habitat restoration projects, sustained funding to support the BLM wild horse and burro management plan, funding for wildland fire suppression and landscape health and resiliency projects, increased funding in the Recreation program to respond to the dramatic increase in the recreational use of the public lands, and funding to support the work of the newly established Foundation for America's Public Lands on behalf of the BLM. The PLF also requested additional supplemental funds in the BLM Rangeland Management program to address the ever-increasing backlog of grazing permit renewals on the public lands.

OIL AND GAS LEASING REFORM

The PLF continued to track actions by the Department of the Interior and the BLM during 2022 to implement federal oil and gas leasing

reforms as outlined in a Department report released in 2021. The PLF updated an Oil and Gas Leasing Position Statement that outlined recommendations on additional reforms in the oil and gas leasing program, issued a News Release on our recommendations, and provided a letter to Secretary Haaland and BLM Director Stone-Manning on our recommendations.

SOLAR AND WIND ENERGY

The PLF provided comments to the BLM on proposed guidance to reduce rental rates for solar and wind energy authorizations on the public lands and also updated a Position Statement that outlined recommendations for facilitating renewable energy development on the public lands. The BLM later announced the decision to reduce the acreage rent and megawatt capacity fee for solar and wind energy authorizations on the public lands, announced the signing of an interagency MOU to improve Federal agency coordination, and announced the decision to reestablish Renewable Energy Coordination Offices to facilitate and streamline the permitting process.

PUBLIC LAND ACCESS

The PLF supported passage of P.L. 117-114, the Modernizing Access to Our Public Lands Act (MAPLand Act), by Congress in 2022 and updated a Public Land Access Position Statement that provides additional recommendations for addressing public land access issues in the west. The PLF is closely tracking a court case in Wyoming that involves public land access to checkerboard lands.

MINING LAW REFORM

The PLF updated a Position Statement on Mining Law Reform and provided recommendations for amendments to the 1872 Mining Law in response to a request from the Department for public comments. In addition, the PLF participated in roundtable discussions during 2022 with an Interagency Working Group on Mining Law Reform. The PLF also provided supplemental comments on the hardrock abandoned mine lands (AML) program in response to a Department request for comments.



Student Congress

2022 marked the return of the John Freemuth Student Congress. This year's Congress was presented by a partnership between PLF, the National Association of Forest Service Retirees and the Andrus Center for Public Policy at Boise State University. The theme for this year's Congress was Wildland Fire and attracted the most applicants ever for the 25 spots.

We are pleased to note that this year's Congress was the most diverse to date and brought in students from every corner of the country.

The students spent a week on the Boise State campus discussing Wildland Fire, its implications for local communities and next steps for the BLM and USFS to take in addressing the issue. The Congress was divided into four work groups that tackled a

specific topic and then presented their findings at the end of the week.

The group spent a morning at the National Interagency Fire Center where they received a tour and were greeted by Grant Beebe, the National Interagency Fire Director. After learning about NIFC operations the students broke into two groups to take tours of local public lands and learn about on the ground fire management.

The week ended with each of the groups making their recommendation presentations to BLM Idaho Director Karen Kelleher, Grant Beebe and others at NIFC. A group of the students took these recommendations and distilled them into a report which will be presented to BLM and USFS staff in Washington DC in Spring 2023.



"The Congress encouraged me to think critically about all the factors that play into changing policy and find middle ground between different perspectives. I am honored to help plan the next John Freemuth Student Congress and excited to see all the driven, young environmental leaders that care deeply about creating change."

Cam Brown, attendee



Awards

The PLF is proud to acknowledge and recognize significant contributions to public lands management by individuals, groups and organizations. We do this by issuing several kinds of awards. Most are awarded annually, but some are presented on special occasions.

- **2022 Outstanding Professional in Managerial/Administrative Category**
Jeremy Casterson, Field Manager, Upper Snake Field Office, Idaho Falls District.
- **2022 Outstanding Professional in Technical/Operational Category**
Jeff Cundick, Minerals Branch Chief, Idaho Falls District.
- **2022 Volunteer of the Year Awards**
Henri Bisson & Margaret Lliteras
- **2022 George Lea Founders Scholarship Winners**
 - Kyla Baldrige, University of Wyoming
 - Alyssa Rawinski, Western Colorado University



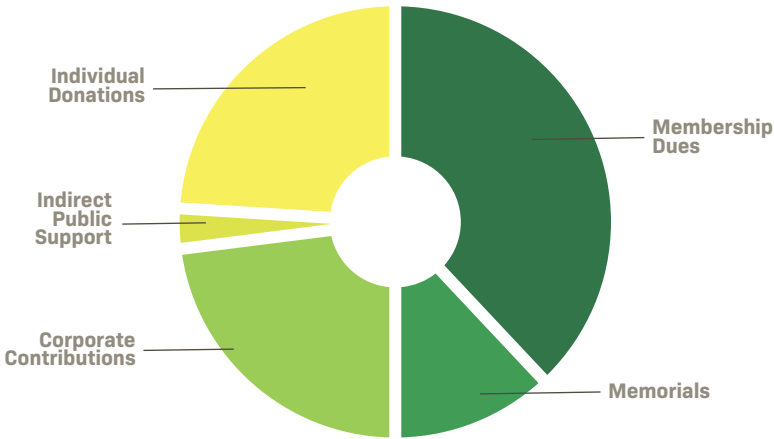
Financials

The Public Lands Foundation is financially sound with total assets over \$411,000 as of the end of 2022. PLF relies primarily on individual membership dues and directed program contributions for income. PLF raised more than \$60,000 for the 2022 Student Congress and \$36,000 for the 75th Anniversary celebrations for the BLM. These two events were the main income streams over the last two fiscal years in addition to a planned gift that was received in 2021.

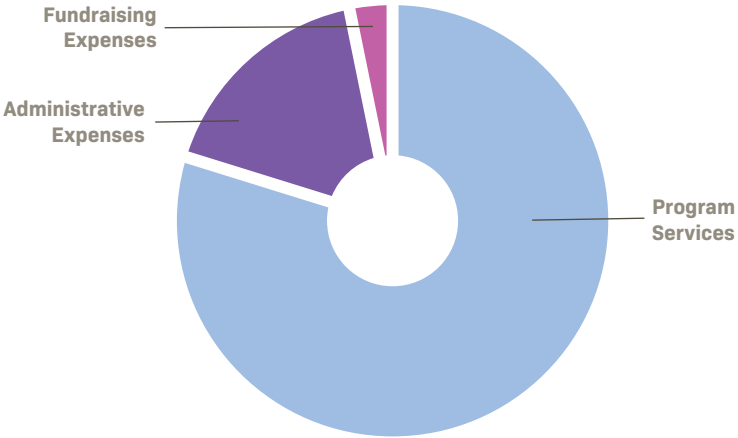
2022 saw a major dip in the market and PLF's investments were negatively impacted, as was the rest of the country. In addition, our two campaigns saw income and expenditures spread over two fiscal years, creating a negative balance for 2022 despite our strong income stream in 2021. Despite the market losses PLF was able to bring in steady contributions to its Scholarship and Student Congress funds. We are confident that our organization is healthy and recovered from the COVID impact.

We will continue to raise funds for the 2024 Student Congress, our George Lea Founders Scholarship, the BLM History Program and our new advocacy campaign.

Kim Harb, PLF Treasurer



REVENUES	
Individual Donations	\$10,540
Membership Dues	16,778
Memorials	5,339
Corporate Contributions	10,194
Indirect Public Support	1,042
TOTAL INCOME	\$43,893



EXPENSES	
Program Services	\$53,388
Administrative Expenses	11,264
Fundraising Expenses	1,036
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$65,688

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES	
Beginning Net Assets	\$571,237.24
Ending Net Assets	412,215.91
Total Liabilities	332.50
TOTAL ASSETS	\$411,883.41

Thank You!

APPRECIATION FOR PLF FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS:

SUSTAINER MEMBER \$100

Sylvia Bruce,
Celia Boddington
Ray Brady
Rhett Butler
E. Lynn Burkett
Carolyn Droscher
Dwight Fielder
Scott Florence
Mike Gardner
Kim Harb
Pat Harvey
Nancy Haug
Ted Hudson
Ann Hutchinson
Abbie Jossie
Karl Kipping
Janine Kreck
Jim May
Curtis V. McVee
Bob Moore
Teri Rami
Cecil Roberts
Mona Schermerhorn
Cynthia Staszak
Jenna Whitlock
Thomas Zale
Elaine Zielinski
Martin Zimmer

\$200 MEMBER

Michael T. Green
Bill Lamb
Courtney Lyons-Garcia

\$500 MEMBER

Dean Bibles
Mike Ford
Roger Haskins
Beaumont McClure

LIFETIME MEMBER

Tim Burke
Steve Ellis
Stephen Fleming
Myra Musialkiewicz
Mary Jo Rugwell
Rachel Wrightson

GEORGE LEA FOUNDERS SCHOLARSHIP

George Alderson
Bruce Blanchard,
in memory of Melvin Shilling
Jim Colby
Carolyn Droscher
Jesse Juen
Pat Harvey
Linda B. Hofman
Mike Gardner,
in memory of Bill Glenn and Harvey Wofford
Jesse Juen
John Kwiatkowski
George Lea
Courtney Lyons-Garcia
Van Manning
David Mari
Gary Marsh
Jim May,
in memory of Glendon Collins
James Monroe
Sherrill Smith,
in memory of Gary Lair
Greg and Mary Simmons
Don Simpson
John H. Stephenson
David L. Stout
Smith J. Williams
Al Wright,
given in memory of Ed Spang
Elaine Zielinski

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIA

Tom Allen,
in memory of Glendon Collins and Ed Spang
Celia Boddington,
in memory of Vicki Dixon, Queen Washington and Tyrone Weaver
E. Lynn Burkett,
in memory of Becky Garner
Rhett Butler,
in memory of Ed Spang
Levi Deike,
in memory of Glendon Collins
Alex Dohrmann,
in honor of Dan Larson
Carolyn Droscher,
in memory of Don Sweep and Rolf Algermissen

Dwight Fielder,
in memory of Becky Garner

Mike Ford,
in memory of Butch Hayes and Mike Taylor

Patricia Fornes,
in honor of Mary Jo Rugwell

Mike Gardner,
in memory of Steve Beyer and Dennis Bland

Michael T. Green,
in memory of Ed Spang

Linda B. Hofman,
in memory of Irving and Jennie Senzel

George Lea,
in memory of Glen Collins and Mel Shilling

Courtney Lyons-Garcia,
in memory of Kathy Simpson

Dave Mari,
in memory of Felix J. Lapinski

Gary Marsh,
in memory of Vicki Dixon and Queen Washington

Jim May,
in memory of Ed Spang

Beaumont McClure,
in memory of Butch Hayes, Les Rosenkrance, Ed Spang and Mike Taylor

Jack Ragsdale,
in memory of Don Applegate

Les Rosenkrance,
in memory of Glendon Collins

Robert and Deanna Saint-Aubin,
in memory of Ed Spang

Mona Schermerhorn,
in memory of Jean Austin and Marv LeNoue

Louise B. Senzel,
in memory of Irving and Jennie Senzel

Rosemary Thomas,
in memory of Butch Hayes

Elaine Zielinski,
in memory of Gloria Brown, Ed Hastey, Del Vail and Chuck Wassinger

Martin Zimmer,
in memory of Patti and Doug Brunner, Delmar Vale and Clair Whitlock

STUDENT CONGRESS

Henri Bisson
James Caswell
James Colby
ConocoPhillips
Conservation Lands Foundation
Michael Ferguson
Scott Florence
Martha Hahn
Kim Harb
Linda B. Hofman
Eric B. Janes,
in memory of Ed Spang
Gary Marsh
Cheryl McCaffrey
Mary Jo Rugwell
Don Simpson
Jenna Whitlock

ANNUAL FUND

Henri Bisson
John P. Case
James Colby

Jim Currivan
Carolyn Droscher
Ewing Family Foundation
Scott Florence
Eric B. Janes
Kroger Community Giving Program
Lauren Luckey
Mat Millenbach
Tim O'Brien
Greg and Mary Simmons
Don Simpson

BLM 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Conservation Lands Foundation
Public Lands Interpretive Association

ADVOCACY WORK

Invenergy
Robert and Deanna Saint-Aubin

APPRECIATION FOR PARTNERS

The PLF expresses its appreciation to partners whose collaboration and support during 2020 contributed significantly to our accomplishments. These include:
American Wildlife Conservation Partners
Andrus Center for Public Policy
Conservation Lands Foundation
National Association of Forest Service Retirees
National Horse and Burro Rangeland Management Coalition
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership.



You Can Help

The PLF also appreciates the support from many individuals who were not members of the PLF but who nonetheless took time to write Congress about the reorganization and the disruption that it created for the Bureau of Land Management and its employees and their families.

How YOU can Help:

- Join the Public Lands Foundation and attend a PLF Annual meeting
- Get outside; be a BLM Volunteer
- Attend a BLM public meeting
- Attend a BLM Resource Advisory Committee meeting, or a BLM scoping session
- Comment on a BLM resource management plan or travel management plan
- Be a public lands influencer; alert the PLF to public land issues
- Follow the PLF on social media and publicland.org
- Make a gift to the PLF
- Select Public Lands Foundation as your charity when shopping with iGive and Kroger Community Rewards

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about the PLF visit www.publicland.org, follow us on social media, email us at info@publicland.org, or contact us at 703-935-0916.



www.instagram.com/publiclands/



www.facebook.com/publiclandfdn

www.publicland.org

