

## Public Lands Foundation Awards Scholarships

The Public Lands Foundation (PLF) has announced recipients of George Lea Founder's Scholarships for the tenth consecutive year. Amaris Shammaa and Tiffany Mar have been awarded \$5000 scholarships for the 2023-2024 school year.

Amaris is entering a master-level program in Wildlife, Aquatic, & Wildlands Science Management at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX. Tiffany, is a full-time undergraduate (junior), at the University of California, Berkeley. She is pursuing a degree in Society and Environment (Environmental Studies).

Each scholarship application was independently reviewed and rated by the PLF's Scholarship Selection Committee. In addition to their university studies, all applicants were rated on their extracurricular and volunteer activities at their universities and in their communities, and their employment while in school.

Public Lands Foundation President Mary Jo Rugwell says the annual awards of the scholarships is an important function of the PLF, especially since individual PLF members fund the scholarships with their donations. The scholarships assist awardees in successfully completing their studies and encourage them to seriously consider future employment with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or other land management agencies. Scholarship funds will be applied to tuition and related expenses, beginning in the Fall of 2023.

Applications for the scholarships were received from 35 students at 17 colleges and universities in 11 states. Applicants comprised 14 graduate-, 5 senior-, and 16 junior-level students. Each of the applicants was well-qualified, making for a challenging selection process.

The PLF was founded in 1987, by former BLM Assistant Director George Lea. When Mr. Lea retired in the mid-1980s he still had a passion to advocate for the professional management of the Nation's public lands. He joined with other BLM retirees to form the PLF.

Mr. Lea's passion for the land and resources continues to this day as he is still active in the PLF as an Honorary Member. At the PLF's annual meeting in September 2013, the Board of Directors voted to recognize Mr. Lea through this scholarship as a symbolic way of tying past generations of natural resource professionals with the next generation.

The PLF is a national non-profit organization, comprised primarily of retired BLM employees. The PLF advocates and works for the retention of America's public lands in the public's hands, professionally and sustainably managed for the responsible use and enjoyment of American citizens.



**Tiffany Mar**



**Amaris Shammaa**