



For America's Heritage

THE PUBLIC LANDS Monitor

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SUMMER QUARTER 2023

2023 PLF ANNUAL MEETING – CHEYENNE, WY SEPTEMBER 25 – 26, 2023

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It is time to register and get your hotel reservations for this year's Annual Meeting, which will be held at the Little America Hotel & Resort in Cheyenne, Wyoming, on Monday and Tuesday, September 25-26, 2023.

The events will include a Board of Directors meeting from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, September 25, followed by an evening barbeque at the Terry Bison Ranch from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The barbeque menu includes: corn bread, baked beans, barbequed chicken, barbequed ribs, brisket, desert and coffee. There will be a cash bar and an indoor option in case of bad weather. The Terry Bison Ranch is located at 51 Interstate 25 Frontage Road, Cheyenne, WY 82007. For more information about the Ranch, go to www.terrybisonranch.com. Monday and Tuesday lunches will be on-your-own.

On Tuesday morning, September 26, there will be a general meeting open to the public. The theme for this meeting will be "Public Land Access & Corner Crossing." A PLF Board and Member meeting will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. It will be followed by a 6:00 p.m. cash bar and a banquet starting at 7:00 p.m. Please see the meeting registration information, provided as an attachment to this edition of the Monitor, for banquet meal details. After dinner, we will have our annual Remembering BLM speaker, awards presentations, and our silent auction and raffle.

The silent auction and raffle help support the George Lea Founder's Scholarship Program where we give two awards of \$5,000 each year to deserving college students in natural resource fields. Bill & Deanne LeBarron and John & Janice Kwiatkowski are in charge of this year's silent auction and raffle. *(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

I hope you are enjoying all that summer has to offer. Here in Wyoming, it has been very cool and wet, certainly not something we have experienced in many years. Regardless, a break from winter is always welcome!

In mid-April, I took a quick trip to Boise, ID, to brief BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning on the 2022 John Freemuth Student Congress. You may remember that the top BLM Leadership was not available in Washington, DC, when Mike Ferguson and others traveled there in February to brief agency leaders about the success of last year's Congress. I was joined by Jim Caswell, Jenna Whitlock, and other Andrus Center staff for the briefing in Boise. Tracy was very appreciative for the briefing and made a commitment for continued financial support from the BLM for the Student Congress in the future.

I want to express my appreciation to Jim Kenna, Kit Muller, Don Simpson, Ed Roberson, Ray Brady, and the other team members who worked so diligently on PLF's comments on BLM's Conservation and Landscape Health Proposed Rule. The PLF submitted comments to BLM on June 15, before the public comment period deadline, and those comments have been posted on the PLF website. Don Simpson and I also attended the public meeting which BLM held in Denver, CO, on Thursday, May 25. The meeting was well attended and provided additional information and a brief opportunity for questions.

Kudos go out to Scott Florence and his team upon completion of the PLF Membership drive at the end of June. The team made over 200 contacts, garnered 21 new members, and had 65 lapsed members renew their memberships. It is critical for each of us to take every opportunity on a regular, ongoing basis to reach out to new retirees and anyone interested in keeping public lands in public hands. The fact that BLM is unable to provide PLF with retiree information makes it more difficult for PLF to recruit new members. However, our membership brochure is being distributed with retirement packages per Mike Nedd, the BLM Deputy Director for Operations.

I am also pleased to report that we awarded two \$5,000 scholarships again this year to deserving college students. The scholarships were awarded to Amaris Shammaa (Texas Tech University) and Tiffany Mar (University of California, Berkeley) for

the 2023-2024 school year. However, we need to continue to fund our scholarship program and I encourage you to make a contribution to the George Lea Founder's Scholarship Fund. Donations can be made through the PLF website or by check mailed to the Public Lands Foundation.

Donations would be deeply appreciated and will ensure we can continue to support this important program.



Mary Jo Rugwell

I continue to work with BLM leadership to explore ways to increase PLF's visibility with current BLM employees. In mid-May, I had a call with Barbara Eggers (Business and Management AD), Jeff Krauss (WO Communications), Michael Scherger (National Training Center), and David Howell (National Training Center). Michael was the NTC Director but will be leaving BLM for a position with the National Park Service. David Howell will serve as the Acting Director upon Michael's departure. Jeff Krauss offered again to work with us on an article for the BLM Daily about PLF. Barbara Eggers asked if I would be willing to make a video with the NTC to help advertise PLF's Coaching/Mentoring pilot program. I responded that I would be happy to do so. I also sent another e-mail to the BLM's Executive Leadership Team in June to provide more information about PLF as there are several new ELT members.

We also had a PLF Board call with the BLM Director on June 28 to get an update on BLM initiatives and activities. The BLM has no time-line on completion of the final Conservation and Landscape Health Rule and is currently reviewing over 200,000 public comments that were received on the Proposed Rule. The BLM continues to work with cooperators on the Proposed Grazing regulations. The Director continues to address the need to fill critical positions and is making some progress in reducing the vacancy rate within the agency, with a current vacancy rate of about 23 percent. The Director has set a target to further reduce the vacancy rate to 15 percent. Recruitment efforts are underway to support the

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN *(continued)*

recent funding provided by the Inflation Reduction Act for BLM landscape restoration projects and goals have been set to increase the hiring of intern positions over the next three years. The clearance process is being completed for the selection of four Board members for the Foundation for America's Public Lands and the selection of the CEO position for the Foundation is pending. The report from the Mining Law Reform Working Group is currently in the interagency review process and is expected to be released shortly. The Director continues to stress

the importance of adequate funding levels for BLM and has concerns over the impact of uncertain future appropriations, especially funding in the Wild Horse & Burro program.

Please remember to register for the 2023 PLF Annual Meeting which will be held in Cheyenne, WY, on September 25-26. The theme this year will be public access and corner crossing. See this edition of the Monitor for additional details on the Annual Meeting. We look forward to seeing you there!

2023 PLF ANNUAL MEETING – CHEYENNE, WY *(continued)*

If you plan to donate an item(s), please let them know by emailing Bill & Deanne at billdee@rtconnect.net, and John & Janice at j5kwiatkow@aol.com. They need to know prior to the meeting what you are donating, how it will be delivered, and if possible, the item's worth and a suggested minimum bid. The silent auction has always been a fun, friendly competition so let's try to continue success at this meeting. Questions regarding the silent auction or raffle can be directed to Bill LeBarron and John Kwiatkowski at the above-mentioned e-mail addresses.

Since Bill and John both live a long way from Cheyenne, we ask that those of you mailing donated items for the silent auction and raffle to please send them to Mary Jo Rugwell, so that she receives them by September 20, 2023. Mary Jo's address is: 4012 McCann Ave., Cheyenne, WY 82001-1866. If you are attending the meeting, your donation can be brought to the meeting, but again, please let Bill and John know in advance what you are donating, how it will be delivered, and if possible, the item's worth and a suggested minimum bid.

The Little America Hotel & Resort is located at 2800 West Lincolnway, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

We have reserved a block of rooms at a rate of \$119.00 for Deluxe Accommodations and \$149.00 for Preferred Accommodations plus taxes. Based upon availability, these rates are good from September 23 through September 27, 2023. The toll-free reservation number is 1-800-235-6396. Reservations must be made no later than August 25, 2023. Reservations requested after that date will be accepted based upon availability. Check-in time starts at 4:00 p.m. and check-out time is 11:00 a.m. Guests arriving prior to 4:00 p.m. will be given access to accommodations as they become available. The Little America Hotel & Resort is providing complimentary parking, wireless internet in all guest sleeping rooms, and access to the on-site Fitness Center.

Please register on-line at www.publicland.org/events/2023-annual-meeting for our Annual Meeting by August 25, 2023, or print both pages of the Registration Form provided on-line and mail it along with your check made payable to the "Public Lands Foundation" to Beau McClure, 6510 W. Lucia Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85083-7406 by August 25, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact Beau McClure by email at vpops@publicland.org, or by phone at (623) 587-7883.

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.

GEORGE LEA FOUNDER'S SCHOLARSHIP

The PLF each year awards two \$5,000 scholarships to deserving college students pursuing degrees aligned with BLM public land resource programs. Thirty-five applications from 18 colleges and universities were submitted to the PLF for the 2023 George Lea Founder's Scholarship. The PLF has selected the recipients of the George Lea Founder's Scholarships for the tenth consecutive year.

The annual awards of scholarships to deserving college students is an important program of the PLF, especially since PLF members fund the

scholarships with their donations. The scholarships assist students in successfully completing their studies and encourages them to seriously consider future employment with BLM or other land management agencies. The scholarship program recognizes George Lea, former BLM Assistant Director and founder of the PLF, for his continued passion and advocacy for the professional management of the public lands. George is still active in the PLF as an Honorary Member and this scholarship program is a symbolic way of tying past generations of natural resource professionals with the next generation.



Amaris Shammaa
Texas Tech University



Tiffany Mar
University of California, Berkeley

Amaris Shammaa and Tiffany Mar have each been awarded a \$5,000 scholarship for the 2023-2024 school year. Amaris Shammaa is entering a master-level program in Wildlife, Aquatic, & Wildlands Science Management at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX. Tiffany Mar is currently a full-time undergraduate student at the University of California, Berkeley, pursuing a degree in Society and Environment (Environmental Studies).

ELECTRONIC MAILING ONLY

The PLF has gone to an all digital distribution of the quarterly Monitor newsletter to save on printing and mailing costs of our newsletter. The Spring 2023 edition of the Monitor, this current Summer 2023 edition of the Monitor, and future editions will be distributed electronically to all members. The PLF 2022 Annual Report, however, was printed and mailed to all members.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The PLF is continuing our membership drive to enlist as many people as possible to join us in protecting the future of BLM-administered public lands. It does not matter whether you are a retired, former, or current BLM employee or someone who really cares about public lands. If you care about ensuring these lands remain in public hands and are managed sustainably for all their many uses based on the best science available, join the PLF. If you wish to have a voice in the policies, decisions, and future regarding how these lands are managed, then the PLF is the organization for you!

This is an opportunity to leverage your personal interest, experience, or expertise in working for BLM to advocate before Congress, present, and future Administrations, and the public for sound management practices, robust budgets, and modernized regulations. As a member of the PLF, you can help preserve the history of public land management in this Country by adding to the holdings of our historical archives. You can keep updated on national issues or help us prepare or update our

position statements. Through PLF membership, you will be able to connect with current and former BLMers or meet and catch up with them at various events sponsored by the PLF.

In addition, there is an opportunity to impact future public lands managers by volunteering to assist or supporting our investment in educating young adults through the PLF George Lea Founder's Scholarship program or the John Freemuth Student Congress. All members are encouraged to actively participate in our various committees focused on national public land management issues, legislation, fundraising, or awards and special events.

If you are an existing member, we encourage you to reach out to a family member, friend, former colleague, or current BLM employee to join the PLF or renew their membership. If you are not a member, we encourage you to visit our website at www.publicland.org. There you can find out more about who we are and what we do. You can also click the membership banner and join us on our journey!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____
Date _____
Amount Enclosed _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

Regular	\$50
Contributing	\$100
Sponsoring	\$200
Patron.....	\$500

DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT CONTACT INFORMATION?

Please help us keep our records current and ensure we have your current e-mail address on file.
Message us at info@publicland.org, or call at 703-935-0916.

THE STORY OF THE BLM LOGO

by Chip Calamaio

BLM National Training Center 1985 – 2015

Bob Wolf, former Assistant to the BLM Director recalls that “when Karl Landstrom became BLM Director in 1961, he decided to replace the old busy BLM emblem.” The term “logo” didn’t exist then. “Committees were formed, employees sent in designs, and even the Army Board of Heraldry was asked to propose one,” he recalled.

However, no resolution was reached on a new BLM emblem. Chuck Stoddard replaced Karl Landstrom as BLM Director in 1963 and Bob Wolf rejoined the BLM as his assistant after ten years in other agencies. The lack of a new BLM emblem was regularly raised at staff meetings to no avail. Bob Wolf used these meetings to “doodle,” always drawing the same picture—a stately Douglas fir, a winding river coming out of the mountains and the triangle were part of a consistent “doodle” over the years. After continued complaints that the BLM still didn’t have an emblem decision, Bob Wolf shared his “doodle” with Director Stoddard and said, “Why don’t we try this?” The Director instantly liked the idea and put Bob Wolf in charge of perfecting the design.

Bob set up a meeting with Clayton Anderson, head of the BLM Recreation staff, and Departmental artist Roy Prudhomme. The first thing that Clay and Roy said was “Put the triangle point down—it’ll give the emblem depth”. Clay and Roy liked the simplicity, pointing out the BLM needed a sign that was not only distinctive but routable when made on wood. To make it easier to rout by a sign maker, Roy rounded the hills in the foreground and made changes in the tree.

“My job was to fend off each of the “disciplines”, recalled Bob. The foresters wanted more trees. The range people wanted a cow—then they sided with the cadastral engineers who wanted section lines, arguing for a barbed wire fence. The minerals staff wanted an oil derrick—the old emblem had one—and when that didn’t fly, asked for a mine shaft on one of the mountains. All requests were fended off and the proposed design was shared with then Secretary Udall. He looked at it, and pronounced it “Great!!” He had just come back from Japan, where he had seen Mount Fuji. He looked at the mountain again and said, “Put some snow on it.” That was done and the BLM had a new emblem.

In the decades that followed, the official BLM logo became the primary identifier of the BLM. It has been used on thousands of signs, maps, and publications. The color palate was standardized for printed and electronic media and regulations were developed on how it was to be used. Celia Boddington, former BLM Assistant Director for Communications, explained that, “The National System of Public Lands was an initiative of Director Jim Caswell who felt that BLM should have equivalent nomenclature to other land management agencies. So, once approved by the Department, we also incorporated it into our logo.” Initially the official BLM logo strayed from the familiar triangle into a trapezoid in the manner of a sign.

This was never Caswell’s intention and BLM subsequently restored the logo to its original shape. Craig Leff with BLM’s Office of Communication added that, “Although we reverted back to the traditional logo the “National System of Public Lands” tag line remained and was incorporated in the most recent version at the top of the triangle.”

And it all started with a “doodle”.

Editor: This story was originally prepared by Chip Calamaio, retired BLM National Training Center, to include in the BLM History book.

BLM LOGOS THROUGH THE YEARS



The first BLM Logo reflected the agency's commodity-based production mission.



Prineville BLMers stood on a rocky ridge in the late 1950s and staged a photo to match the first BLM Logo.



The new BLM Logo.



The revised BLM Logo.



The current BLM Logo.

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 update our Legislation and Regulations webpage on our website under the “Advocacy” link and provide updates in the Monitor on significant actions.



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 regulations and policies for reducing methane emissions in the oil and gas sector. The BLM on November 28, 2022 announced the publication of a Proposed Rule on venting and flaring to address the waste of natural gas and reduce methane emissions from oil and gas operations on Federal lands.

PLF POSITION: The PLF on January 23, 2023 provided comments on the venting and flaring Proposed Rule and will be closely tracking future actions and providing comments 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 increase renewable energy production on the public lands. The BLM on June 1, 2022 announced the release of

reduced acreage rental rates and megawatt capacity fees for wind and solar energy authorizations on the public lands and on June 16, 2023 published a Proposed Rule to further facilitate solar and wind energy development on the public lands and adjust rental rates for solar and wind energy right-of-way authorizations. The BLM on December 8, 2022 published a Notice of Intent to update the 2012 Solar Programmatic EIS for the western states and potentially identify additional solar development areas. The Draft EIS is expected to be released in Summer 2023 and the Final EIS in Spring 2024.

PLF POSITION: The PLF will be reviewing the solar and wind energy Proposed Rule published on June 16, 2023.

MODERNIZING ACCESS TO OUR PUBLIC LANDS ACT (MAPLAND ACT) P.L. 117-114

STATUS: Approved by Congress and signed by the President on April 29, 2022.

SUMMARY: The MAPLand Act requires the Federal land management agencies to publish within the next four years digital online maps of public lands and information on access to public lands, including easement acquisitions. This legislation and passage of the Dingell Act in 2019 (P. L. 116-9) provide tools to address public land access issues and an opportunity for the public to nominate parcels of land for acquisition to improve access to public lands.

PLF POSITION: *The PLF has been tracking a court case in Wyoming that involves public land access to checkerboard lands, commonly referred to as “corner crossing”. The U.S. District Court in Wyoming issued a decision on May 26, 2023 that dismissed the trespassing lawsuit brought by the private landowner against four hunters accessing public lands by corner crossing in the Elk Mountain area in southwestern Wyoming. The private landowner in this case had sought \$7.75 million in damages, citing diminished property values due to the alleged “corner crossing” trespass. Public land access will be a theme for the PLF Annual Meeting to be held in Cheyenne, WY in September 2023.*

MINING LAW REFORM – 1872 MINING LAW

STATUS: A Federal Register Notice announcing formation of a Mining Law Reform Interagency Working Group published March 31, 2022 by Interior. The BLM is expected to release a draft report from the Interagency Working Group in summer 2023.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Interior announced the formation of an Interagency Working Group to gather information and develop recommendations for improving the Federal hardrock mining regulations, laws, and permitting processes. The Federal Register Notice also invited public comments to help inform the efforts of the Interagency Working Group.

PLF POSITION: The PLF on April 24, 2022 provided the PLF Position Statement, in response to the Federal Register Notice, on recommendations for amendments to the 1872 Mining Law. The PLF and the National Association of Forest Service Retirees on August 29, 2022 provided joint supplemental comments on the hardrock abandoned mine lands (AML) program in response to a Interior request for comments. The PLF also participated in the Public Listening Sessions with the Interagency Working Group on July 19, 21, and 26, 2022. The PLF Position Statement and supplemental AML comments are available on the PLF website. The PLF on March 24, 2023 signed onto a joint letter, with several other organizations, to both Senate and House Appropriations Committees to request funding of \$287 million as a budget line item in the FY 2024 appropriations bills for the Section 40704 abandoned hardrock mine reclamation program in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The PLF on March 24, 2023, forwarded to the Interior Mining Law Reform Interagency Working Group a copy of comments prepared by Bob Anderson on the Small Miners mining claim assessment waiver program.

SOLAR AND WIND ENERGY REGULATIONS – 43 CFR 2800

STATUS: The BLM on June 16, 2023 published a Proposed Rule for solar and wind energy right-of-way authorizations on the public lands under the 43 CFR 2800 regulations.

SUMMARY: The Proposed Rule would adjust rental fees for solar and wind energy authorizations, provide BLM with more flexibility in processing applications for solar and wind energy development in designated leasing areas, and update criteria on prioritizing solar and wind energy right-of-way applications.

PLF POSITION: The PLF in February 2022 provided comments to BLM on draft policy guidance to promote solar and wind energy development on the public lands. The draft guidance also proposed updates for rental rates and capacity fees for solar and wind energy right-of-way authorizations on the public lands. This Proposed Rule will carry forward those updated policies and include additional provisions for solar and wind energy right-of-way authorizations on the public lands. The PLF will review the proposed regulations and provide comments as appropriate.



Silver State Solar project, Nevada

CONSERVATION REGULATIONS – 43 CFR 1600 AND 6100

RULE STATUS: The BLM on March 30, 2023 announced the release and publication of a Proposed Rule on Conservation and Landscape Health under the 43 CFR 1600 and 6100 regulations. The White House announced that BLM would be publishing this Proposed Rule as part of the administration's initiatives in Strengthening the Stewardship of America's Public Lands. *Congressman Curtis (R-UT) introduced HR 3397 and Senator Barrasso (R-WY) introduced S 1435 in May 2023 that would require BLM to withdraw the Proposed Rule. HR 3397 was approved by the House Natural Resources Committee on June 21, 2023.*

RULE SUMMARY: The Proposed Rule would clarify and support the principles of multiple use and sustained yield in the management of the public lands, restore degraded habitat, and apply land health standards to all BLM-managed public lands. This rule would incorporate climate resiliency and restoration through conservation and preservation in the management of the public lands pursuant to FLPMA and other relevant authorities. This rule within 43 CFR 6000, which includes Conservation and Preservation, would also revise existing regulations to prioritize designating and protecting Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) and provide an overarching framework for multiple BLM programs to promote ecosystem resilience on the public lands. The Proposed Rule would also provide for the use of "conservation leases" to support mitigation efforts and promote the protection and restoration of public lands.

PLF POSITION: *The PLF submitted comments on the Proposed Rule to BLM on June 15, 2023 and those comments are posted on the PLF website.*



American Basin ACEC – Colorado (BLM photo)

METHANE REGULATIONS 43 CFR PARTS 3160 AND 3170

RULE STATUS: A Federal Register Notice of Proposed Rule was published on November 28, 2022.

RULE SUMMARY: The Proposed Rule includes provisions to reduce the waste of natural gas from venting, flaring, and leaks during oil and gas production operations on Federal and Indian oil and gas leases. The Proposed Rule describes the reasonable steps that operators of Federal and Indian oil and gas leases must take to avoid the waste of natural gas and would also provide for royalty payments of any waste of natural gas.

PLF Position: The PLF on January 23, 2023 provided comments on the venting and flaring Proposed Rule, which are available on the PLF website.

GRAZING REGULATIONS 43 CFR PART 4100

RULE STATUS: On January 17, 2020 BLM announced the intent to prepare an EIS to consider proposed revisions to the grazing regulations to improve and streamline the grazing permit process, improve the administration of grazing permits, and also potentially consider the adoption of outcome-based grazing authorizations. The BLM intends to release a Draft EIS and proposed rule in 2023.

RULE SUMMARY: The proposed revisions are intended to update, modernize, and streamline the current grazing regulations and provide for greater flexibility in land and resources management. The BLM seeks to improve land-use planning and grazing permitting procedures, strengthen controls to prevent unauthorized grazing, enhance environmental protections, and improve public input opportunities.

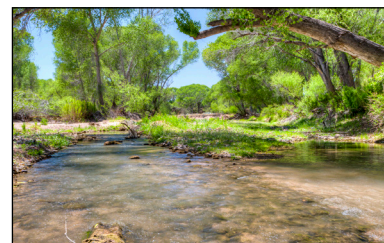
PLF POSITION: The PLF on February 24, 2020 provided comments to BLM in response to the Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS to support proposed revisions to the grazing regulations. The PLF on June 18, 2020 also co-signed a collaborative letter with other organizations to BLM providing comments on proposed revisions to the grazing regulations. *The PLF updated a Livestock Grazing Position Statement in May 2023 and posted the Position Statement on the PLF website. The PLF will continue to track the development of the proposed regulations and provide comments as appropriate.*

FUNDING FOR BLM RESTORATION PROJECTS

The BLM on May 31, 2023 announced the funding of \$161.0 million from the Inflation Reduction Act for 21 ecosystem restoration projects on public lands across 11 western states. These projects will range from restoring wildlife habitat in the sagebrush steppe, to restoring wetland meadows, to repairing watersheds. The BLM selected these projects based on ecological needs, as well as importance to communities, and have the potential for additional partnerships and investments from other Federal and state agencies, Tribal and local governments, private landowners, and stakeholder groups to increase the scope and scale of the restoration work. The projects by State are listed below:

ALASKA Birch Creek and Fortymile
Wild and Scenic Rivers \$5.0 million

ARIZONA Yanowant Landscape \$5.6 million
Sky Islands \$9.6 million



**Sky Islands Restoration
Project, Arizona (BLM photo)**



**Upper Salmon River
Restoration Project, Idaho
(BLM photo)**

CALIFORNIA Cosumnes Watershed \$7.6 million

COLORADO North Park \$5.0 million
San Luis Valley \$6.1 million

IDAHO East Idaho Rivers and Plains \$7.9 million
Snake River Plain \$10.0 million
Upper Salmon River \$9.1 million

MONTANA Blackfoot-Clark Fork \$9.5 million
The Hi-Line Sagebrush \$6.8 million
Missouri Headwaters \$9.9 million

NEW MEXICO Lower Pecos Restoration \$7.6 million

NEVADA Humboldt/O'Neil Basin \$6.0 million
Montana Mountains \$6.0 million

OREGON Southwest Oregon \$5.0 million
Southeast Oregon Sagebrush \$5.0 million

UTAH Upper Bear River \$9.6 million
Color Country Restoration \$9.7 million

WYOMING La Barge \$10.0 million
Muddy Creek \$10.0 million



**Missouri Headwaters Restoration
Project, Montana (BLM photo)**



**Muddy Creek Restoration Project
Wyoming (BLM photo)**

NOMINATIONS

LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARDS

The PLF 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. PLF members, partner organizations, and BLM employees are encouraged to submit nominations by July 15, 2023. Winners will be determined at the PLF Board of Directors meeting in September, and they will be announced and recognized soon thereafter.

The BLM has a variety of land use plans and projects that are intended to address the use, allocation, and improvement of the public lands. Organizations and individuals outside of government are often the catalysts for demonstrating effective approaches for achieving good stewardship of these lands and resources. Good stewardship may be defined as an ethic that embodies cooperative planning and management of resources by agencies, organizations, communities, and others actively engaged to prevent loss of resources and facilitate their improvement in the interest of long-term sustainability. The PLF Landscape Stewardship Award honors the work done by private citizens/groups who work to advance and sustain community-based stewardship on a landscape scale that includes, in whole or in part, lands administered by BLM. The focus on landscapes is intended to be broad in nature versus small-scale, local, project-oriented efforts.

The organizations, groups and individuals typically envisioned for this award are those who took a leadership role to address landscape-scale issues. Emphasis is on individual local citizens or groups comprised of people who are typically all-volunteer without paid staff. A good example would be a coalition of individuals or citizen groups joining together to address issues within a certain landscape to bring about improved stewardship. The award is a citation acknowledging the nature and significance of the organization's, group's, or individual's achievements.

The nomination form and guidelines can be found on the PLF website at www.publicland.org. Go to "Programs", "Awards", and "Landscape Stewardship Awards/Certificates of Appreciation Recipients" for further information about the award,

nomination process/selection process, evaluation factors, a copy of the nomination form, and the guidelines for nominations.

Please send nominations by July 15, 2023, by e-mail to dmari@publicland.org.

NOMINATIONS

LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD

The PLF is seeking nominations for its 2023 Lifetime Service Award. Every year the PLF honors one or two individuals for their lifetime career achievements. Any career BLM employee is eligible, regardless of job, grade, or profession. Nominees should be retirees who had a career that lasted at least 30 years, with at least 20 years having been with BLM. The award can be granted posthumously.

Recipients of this prestigious award are those who have demonstrated exceptional performance in furthering the management of public lands, inspiring public and employee participation, and providing leadership that "made a difference." Full criteria for nomination for the award can be found on the PLF website at www.publicland.org. Go to "Programs" and "Awards" on the website for further information on the award, nomination process, and a copy of the nomination form. The award is normally presented at the PLF annual meeting in September.

Nominations are welcome from any source including BLM employees, PLF members, interest groups, and local and state government officials. Nominations are due July 15, 2023, and should be submitted to Maggie Wyatt at mwyatt@publicland.org. Questions about the award can be directed to Maggie at 435-260-2922.

NOMINATIONS

OUTSTANDING PUBLIC LAND PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

One of the goals of the PLF is to recognize and publicize BLM employee professionalism in public land management. We believe it is important the general public understands the dedication and integrity BLM employees bring to their jobs each day. If our public lands are to be managed for future generations, it is imperative our career professionals be publicly recognized and respected for their outstanding contributions to public land management.

To achieve this objective, the PLF has established two Professional Awards, one for Managerial/Administrative employees and one for Technical (Resources)/Operational disciplines. This will be the 33rd year the PLF has given these national awards to active or recently active employees who have demonstrated outstanding professional performance during the past three years. These awards are focused on recent accomplishments rather than a career of service with BLM. We have encouraged BLM to circulate these Award opportunities to all BLM managers. Outstanding employees deserve recognition. Thank you, in advance, for taking the time to nominate your best!

We invite you to nominate, no later than July 15, 2023, those individual(s) that, in your opinion, are deserving of these prestigious awards. Full criteria for nomination for the awards can be found on the PLF website at www.publicland.org. Go to "Programs" and "Awards" on the website for further information on the awards and nomination process. An optional digital photo may be included for our use. Send nominations to Jim Currivan at jcurrivan@publicland.org. Questions about the awards can be directed to Jim at 775-385-4699.

The PLF Awards Committee will review all nominations, select awardees and secure concurrence from the PLF President. An appropriate Awards Ceremony will be scheduled and announced later.

BLM LEADERSHIP

With the continued changes in the leadership positions of BLM, we would like to provide an update on the current BLM Leadership, including the State Directors that provide the day-to-day on-the-ground management for the public lands. The following are the current Deputy Directors and the State Directors for each of the BLM State Offices:

Director	Tracy Stone-Manning
Deputy Director, Policy and Programs	Nada Culver
Deputy Director, Operations	Michael Nedd
Alaska State Office	Steven Cohn
Arizona State Office	Raymond Suazo
California State Office	Karen Mouritsen
Colorado State Office	Doug Vilsack
Eastern States Office	Mitchell Leverette
Idaho State Office	Karen Kelleher
Montana State Office	Sonya Germann
Nevada State Office	Jon Raby
New Mexico State Office	Melanie Barnes
OR/WA State Office	Barry Bushue
Utah State Office	Greg Sheehan
Wyoming State Office	Andrew Archuleta

HENRI R. BISSON PLF SERVICE AWARD

In memory and recognition of Henry Bisson's strong commitment to the Public Lands Foundation of more than 14 years, the PLF has established the Henri R. Bisson PLF Service Award. This is a very special award and it is not intended to be an annual award.

This award can be given to any PLF member, partner, or donor who has unselfishly given time and/or money to further the PLF objectives. The award will be in the form of a plaque that will be presented during a PLF annual meeting, if possible, or in another appropriate location. Nominations for the award should be received not later than July 15 to be considered. Nominations, not exceeding two pages, should be e-mailed to Beau McClure at vpops@publicland.org. The PLF Executive Committee will determine the award recipients.

JOHN “NOMI” NAHOMENUK TRIBUTE

Republished from Salida Mountain Mail Newspaper

Editor: The passing of John Peter “Nomi” Nahomenuk on March 6, 2023, in Salida, CO was reported in the Spring 2023 edition of the Monitor. This article recognizes John for a posthumous award presented for his work in the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area, Colorado.

John “Nomi” Nahomenuk was posthumously awarded the 2023 Fred Rasmussen Citizen Task Force Exceptional Achievement Award by the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA) Citizen Task Force at a ceremony on March 15, 2023 in Salida, CO. Nomi’s sister Joanne McGrew accepted the award on his behalf. She said he would have been excited to receive the award and attend the award ceremony and see his old friends. “This was his life and where he loved to be”, she said. Established in 2020, the award is given to individual task force members or constituents who exhibit a high level of commitment and support to the AHRA.

Presenter Tom Waters, AHRA Manager, said “Nomi loved this area and really cared about the Upper Arkansas Valley and the community”. From 1984 to 2017, he worked as a River Ranger on the Colorado, Delores, and Arkansas rivers. He became the Outdoor Recreation Planner for the BLM Royal Gorge Resource Area in 1990 and in 2015 became the BLM River Manager for the AHRA. Nomi was instrumental in creation of the Greater Arkansas River Nature Association in 1996 and served as a liaison to the Association Board representing the BLM. He was also a member of the Chaffee County Heritage Board, again representing the BLM.

The PLF is committed to never forgetting the dedicated employees of BLM who have left us. We do so on our website’s Memorial Wall and by publishing names of those who passed away in the *Monitor*. If you have a death to report, please e-mail us at obits@publicland.org, preferably with a link to or copy of an obituary. 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.

IN MEMORIAM

Robert “Bob” William Faithful IV on May 12, 2023, in Centerville, VA. Bob attended Miami University of Ohio and majored in Political Science and later attended Northwestern University School of Law. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a Judge Advocate. Bob had a 37-year career of government service, including his 15-year career with BLM which began in Anchorage, AK in 1978. He worked as a Paralegal Specialist, Realty Specialist, Deputy State Director, Associate State Director for Eastern States and Montana, and Assistant Director of Support Services. He later worked at the Bureau of Mines, National Park Service, and Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Administration; retiring in 2012.

Martin “Marty” Charter Ott on April 23, 2023, in Kanab, UT. Marty attended Utah State University and was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He had a long career with the National Park Service and also later served as Deputy Director of the Utah Department of Natural Resources. His last assignment before retirement was as the BLM State Director for Montana.

Dean Patrick Reasoner on April 8, 2021, in Cody, WY.

John “JJ” Swift on May 25, 2023, in Tucson, AZ. JJ initially pursued his Federal career as a wildland firefighter with the U.S. Forest Service, but eventually transitioned to a maintenance worker with BLM in Safford, AZ. He would continue his career with BLM in several different positions over the next 20+ years.

Corrine “Cory” Crosser Wilson on March 27, 2023, in Billings, MT. Cory had worked for BLM for 30 years.

DONATIONS*

MEMORIAL DONATIONS			SCHOLARSHIP FUND		
RECEIVED FROM		IN MEMORY OF			
Bob Abbey		Mike Taylor	Bob Abbey	George Alderson	Mary Bellesi
Thomas Allen		Jesse Lowe	John Case	Kathy Eaton	Scott Florence
		Ed Bygland	Mike Ford	Patricia Harvey	Dwight Hempel
Celia Boddington		Henri Bisson	James Hickerson	David Kathma	David Mari
		Lee Delaneyr	Bob Moore	Fearl Parker	Felicia Probert
Levi Deike		Henri Bisson	Teresa Raml	Mary Jo Rugwell	Mona Schermerhorn
		Les Rosenkrance	Rodger Schmitt	Don Simpson	Wayne Winterton
		Mike Taylor	Gregg and Mary Simmons		
Mike Green		Les Rosenkrance	Kwiatkowski Family Fund		
		Don Sweep			
Karl Kipping		Rodney Harris			
		Butch Hayes			
Beau McClure		Robert Faithful			
Shela McFarlin		Henri Bisson			
		Mike Taylor			
L J Porter		Duane Tabb			
Felicia Probert		Henri Bisson			
Rodger Schmitt		David Brunner			
Al Wright		Henri Bisson			
GENERAL FUND			STUDENT CONGRESS		
Thomas Allen	Henri Bisson	Levi Deike	Beau McClure	Don Simpson	
Celia Boddington	Patrica Fornes	Michael Green			
Benjamin Janes	Karl Kipping	Mike Leake			
Courtney Lyons-Garcia	Shela McFarlin	Mat Millenbach			
L J Porter	Don Simpson	Lawrence Sullivan			
Joshua Tripp	Cody Webb	Al Wright			
	Gregg and Mary Simmons				
ENDOWMENT FUND			MEMBERSHIP DUES ABOVE \$50.00		

* This list reflects donations received during the period of April 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023. Donations received after this period will be reported in the next edition of the Monitor.

DONATIONS

Reminder: The PLF is a benefiting non-profit organization under the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Customers with a Kroger rewards card can register and designate the Public Lands Foundation (number DN597) on their rewards card account and purchases will benefit the PLF. Participants just swipe their registered Kroger rewards card when shopping for each purchase to count. We would like to get more members to participate in this program and generate more donations to the PLF. Just 20 households could potentially generate some \$1,000 per year of donations to the PLF.

The PLF continues to request donations to support the George Lea Founder's Scholarship fund. We hope members will make a special contribution to the scholarship fund. The PLF awarded two \$5,000 scholarships in 2022 to deserving students. 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 **PLF General Fund**, **George Lea Founder's Scholarship**, or the **Student Congress Fund**. Remember, if you are making a donation in memory of someone who has passed away, you can designate your donation to go to one of these funds. The PLF has also established a **PLF Endowment Fund** to support the long-term purposes and mission of the organization. The PLF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization. Your donations are tax-deductible to the maximum extent permitted under the law.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

I read with interest Carolyn Shelton's letter to the Editor printed in the Monitor's Winter Quarter 2022/2023 edition. Carolyn's letter reflects the feelings of many former NLCS professionals... myself included.

I had the privilege of working within the NLCS as manager of Red Rock Canyon NCA, the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center at Flagstaff Hill, and the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument; as well as the Deputy Assistant Director for NLCS in the Washington Office. This unique system within the Department of the Interior and BLM has unlimited potential to be used as a world-wide land management working landscape model... similar to the Torres Del Paine National Park in Chile. Increased agency support, along with updating the PLF's goals to reflect this potential is long overdue.

I applaud Carolyn's letter and PLF's decision to visit this critical issue at the upcoming PLF Annual Board Meeting in September 2023. The vision of Secretary Babbitt should guide us all in considering the NLCS's true place in BLM's mission and organizational structure. These truly special places deserve it.

Dave Hunsaker, Baker City, OR

Editor: Several inquiries have been received from retired BLM employees that the PLF update the Goals of our organization to reflect the importance and value of the National Landscape Conservation System of public lands. The National Landscape Conservation System Act was signed into law in March 2009 as part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act and established the NLCS of special management areas managed by BLM. An update of the Goals of the PLF would reflect this more recent management mission for special management areas on the public lands and would also be in line with the Priority Advocacy issues that the PLF has identified to Improve Management of Special Management Areas on the public lands. The PLF will be considering an update of the organization's Goals statement at the Annual Board Meeting in September 2023, to include an additional Goal that supports the long-term protection, conservation, and restoration of units of the National Landscape Conservation System of public lands managed by BLM. The BLM also recently published a Proposed Rule on Conservation and Landscape Health under the 43 CFR 1600 and 6100 regulations that would further promote and support the protection and restoration of public lands.

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 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 Letters to the Editor.



THE PUBLIC LANDS FOUNDATION IS A TAX EXEMPT 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION

REGISTRATION FORM — 2023 PLF ANNUAL MEETING
Little America Hotel & Resort, Cheyenne, Wyoming
September 25 & 26, 2023

Date	Event	No. of People	Per Person	Total Cost
	Early Registration (received by August 25, 2023)		\$75.00	
	No Fee for Spouse Registration*			
	Late Registration (received after August 25, 2023)		\$85.00	
Monday, Sept. 25	Board of Directors' Meeting (please indicate attendance)			
Monday, Sept. 25	Evening Barbecue at the Terry Bison Ranch		\$30.00	
Tuesday, Sept. 26	Morning General Meeting			
Tuesday, Sept. 26	Afternoon Board / PLF Member Meeting			
Tuesday, Sept. 26	Evening Banquet at Little America Hotel & Resort		\$65.00	
	Remittance Total			

Please Print Name(s): _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ **Phone:** _____

Please indicate any dietary needs such as vegetarian, vegan, gluten free, allergies: _____

Please select from meal choices on reverse side of this Registration Form

Please register on-line by **August 25, 2023**, or print both pages of this Registration Form and mail it along with your check made payable to the **"Public Lands Foundation"** to Beau McClure, 6510 W. Lucia Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85083-7406 by **August 25, 2023**. If you have questions, please contact Beau by telephone at 623-587-7883 or by e-mail at vpops@publicland.org.

* Spouses not attending the general meeting do not need to pay the registration fee.

MEAL CHOICES

September 26 Plated Evening Dinner

Served with fresh baked rolls, freshly brewed coffee, decaffeinated coffee, assortment of teas, and iced tea, and house salad. Dessert is New York Style Cheesecake served with strawberry sauce.

Choices	No. of Meals Selected
Top Sirloin Steak: Center-Cut Seasoned Steak with Oven-Dried Tomatoes, Demi Glace, Roasted Red Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables	
Salmon Fillet: Pan-Seared Filet of Salmon, Bouillabaisse Sauce, Fennel & Saffron Broth, Rice Pilaf with Brunoise of Vegetables & Seasonable Vegetables	
Vegetarian, vegan, or gluten free meal —Chef's choice. Please indicate if you need one.	

Special Needs: _____
